

9th Cycle of EU Youth Dialogue

Implementation Activities

Section 1 Introduction: Identifying the changes that happen as a result of EUYD9

This reporting tool is used to collect information from the National Working Groups on the **implementation phase** of the 9th Cycle of EU Youth Dialogue. The reporting tool asks NWGs to identify the **impact and changes as** a result of NWG **implementation activities**. The results will be analysed by the research team supporting the cycle and will help demonstrate the effect of EUYD.

What do we mean by “impact and changes”?

Through EUYD9 Implementation activities, change and impact can happen at a variety of levels that are interconnected:¹.

- At the **individual level** by participating in EUYD9 implementation activities young people can develop a wide range of knowledge, skills, values and attitudes relevant to the cycle theme. This can include things such as developing knowledge of sustainability and inclusion, or changes to their attitudes to public transport or diversity.
- **At community level** young people can also act as agents of change. Project participants can create changes in their wider community, by organising or setting up initiatives and activities. For instance, by influencing their peers or people around them in their community to become more engaged in the sustainability or inclusion agendas. This involves working at a larger scale and affecting change across whole neighbourhoods, cities or even countries. For example, a group of participants in an ESC project could arrange community events to bring young people and older people closer together in their town, or a youth NGO could run a nationwide campaign to raise awareness of environmental issues with the public.
- EUYD9 implementation activities projects can also create change at **organisational or service level**. This refers to concrete changes in the way an organisation, public service, or the staff and volunteers linked to those services work with young people. For instance, an EUYD9 implementation activity might develop a guidebook and provide training to teachers and youth workers on inclusive education. This leads to schools and youth programmes becoming more inclusive.
- EUYD9 implementation activities can also lead to change at the **policy and political level**. For instance, by enabling young people to engage directly with decision makers, the outcomes for political decisions and the contents of policy can be directly influenced.

¹ This section of text is informed by on [SALTO PI's Youth Participation Toolkit](#)

Some areas of change are more difficult to achieve and will often take longer than others. Changes at individual and community level can often be realised relatively quickly, whilst changes at organisational and policy level may take many years.

When reporting on impact and change, you can include change that has already happened, or things that you think are likely to happen in the near future.

What is considered an “implementation activity”?

Implementation activities are activities undertaken, initiated or supported by the NWG specifically to support the goals and outcomes of the EUYD9 cycle. Implementation activities refer to those activities that have a direct link to EUYD9, regardless of if the activities are funded as part of EUYD9 grants. This includes:

- Activities that were initiated as a part of the EUYD9 cycle.
- Activities which began before EUYD9 and were subsequently linked to or enhanced by EUYD9 during the cycle.

The following things should not be reported as implementation activities;

- Activities that take place within your country but are not directly connected to EUYD9 and/or the NWG, even when they relate to the theme of the cycle. *(E.g., Your country has a state programme to support sustainability education. There was no direct link or collaboration between EUYD9 actors and this programme during the cycle - this should not be reported.)*
- Activities that are part of the core work of the organisations involved in the NWG, when the activities do not have a strong link to EUYD9. *(E.g., A National Youth Council involved in the NWG provides training for its members. The main topic of the training is not EUYD9 - this should not be reported.)*
- Activities that relate exclusively to the support of EUYC youth delegates or the general running of EUYD. *(E.g., Your NWG hosts a training day and selection process to identify delegates for one of the EUYD conferences - this should not be reported.)*
- Activities that have not yet started.

Reporting to the ESG

Please use the template on the following pages to report the sorts of impact and change your NWG has identified under each of the sub-themes of the EUYD9 cycle. You may skip any question where you have not identified and change or impact.

Section 2: Reporting template

By completing this form, you agree that the European Youth Forum has the right to share this document along with any accompanying survey data publicly under a [Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 International Licence](#). You must ensure that this form contains no identifying or sensitive personal data, other than the contact name and email address attribution on the first page.

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Country of Working Group: Czech Republic

Sub theme 1 Information and Education

Please describe the implementation activities you undertook which supported this subtheme (suggested word limit 200 words).

Implementation activities on this sub-theme have focused on promoting the results of consultations, both our national and European ones. The aim was to help raise awareness of young people's perceptions of youth-friendly, beneficial information resources and learning opportunities on climate and sustainability.

In addition to sharing news and publishing online information posts on social media, three major events were held:

- 1) In the fall, we ran several workshops at the 2022 National Mutual Experience Exchange. This is an event for youth workers and young people, organised under a different topic each year. This year's motto was *The Earth does not belong to us, we belong to the Earth*. Our workshops focused on presenting the results of consultations and discussing with youth workers, educators, volunteers and young people about quality resources and information on sustainability in formal and non-formal education and beyond.
- 2) In November, together with the Government Office, we organised the World of/without Youth Conference, which focused on mental health and digitalisation. It included a dialogue with politicians on sustainability and development.
- 3) In January, we took part in a simulation of a meeting of the European institutions, organised in Brno by our partner organisation Decide on Europe. There we held workshops on the topics of the current cycle and debated as panellists.

Another activity is the continued development of the Rural Youth Platform (under the National Network of Local Action Groups), which is a member of the National Working Group. Local consultations will also address the relationship between environmental issues and social inequalities.

Youth delegates to the UN participated in COP27 in Egypt. They mainly provided information through social media, gave interviews to radio and TV stations and provided information in face-to-face meetings with young people. They also gave presentations at the Prague Student Summit and other events. The main topics were the climate crisis and sustainable development.

The Czech Council for Children and Youth contributed to the preparation of the document

Contribution of Non-Governmental Non-Profit Organisations to the Preparation and Implementation of the Programme of the Czech Presidency of the Council of the EU 2022.

In relation to this subtheme,
What impact and change do you expect your implementation activities will lead to, either now, or in the near future at **individual level or community level**? (Suggested word limit 200 words).

The impact at the individual level is to increase awareness among educators and youth workers of young people's needs for youth-friendly information resources and learning opportunities on this topic. Participants in the 2022 National Mutual Experience Exchange workshops also shared their own experiences in this area and discussed opportunities for improvement. In particular, youth workers agreed that children and young people bring climate-related questions that are not answered in school. They considered it as a good idea to strengthen their role on this topic and bring answers to fill in the "blank spots". They still consider the need to get more information on the topic individually to be a problem - there are questions they don't know the answers to or can't find the answers to themselves.

Another impact of these activities is the influence directly on young people - spreading awareness of how their peers formulate their demands for information and learning opportunities.

The impact of youth delegates to the UN is to make issues accessible to young people in a language they understand and through the means they follow. Delegates continue to pursue these activities.

In relation to this subtheme,
What impact and change do you expect your implementation activities will lead to, either now, or in the near future **at the organisational or service level**? (Suggested word limit 200 words).

As well as for the individual level, the need for a change in the relation between formal and non-formal sustainability education can mean a lot for the organisational level. However, this has been a long-standing issue in the Czech Republic, and the 9th cycle of the European Youth Dialogue has therefore resulted in partial shifts based mainly on the prestige of the events of the Czech Presidency of the Council of the EU, rather than activities directly related to the youth dialogue.

In relation to this subtheme,
What impact and change do you expect your implementation activities will lead to, either now, or in the near future **at the policy or political level**? (Suggested word limit 200 words).

In the context of the Presidency, the document *Contribution of Non-Governmental Non-Profit Organisations to the Preparation and Implementation of the Programme of the Czech Presidency of the Council of the EU 2022* defined the ways in which non-profit organisations, including youth organisations, can contribute their experience and expertise to the topics of the Czech Presidency. These include, among others, the topics of sustainability and inclusiveness. An evaluation of the implementation of the objectives is now underway, again with the participation of youth representatives and youth workers. Here we have the opportunity to include young people's views and influence future youth engagement.

Sub theme 2 Action and Empowerment

Please describe the implementation activities you undertook which supported this subtheme (suggested word limit 200 words).

Thanks to the National Working Group's actions related to this sub-theme, the direct influence of young people on decision-making processes at local and national level has been extended.

At the local level, this includes the Rural Youth Platform mentioned in sub-theme 1. Newly (but as planned), Regional Youth Dialogue Coordinators have been appointed to lead the dialogue and involve young people in local decision-making processes. The Platform continuously informs the NWG about the process and coordinates its activities with the NWG.

Another opportunity for youth empowerment was the World of/without Youth Conference, which we organised in cooperation with the Government Office on 21 November 2022. It included the themes: 13 years of Structured Dialogue in the Czech Republic, Mental Health, Digitisation, Young people in the Czech Republic, Europe and the World, the themes of youth activity and influence went across the conference, as well as the theme of sustainability. The discussion between young people and the present decision-makers was also important, from which further collaboration emerged.

Last but not least, we agreed to collaborate on organising focus groups to update *the Czech Republic 2030 strategic framework*. This is a cross-sectoral document, framing other strategic documents at national, regional and local level. Specific steps towards the fulfilment of the objectives are the responsibility of the relevant ministries and the Government Office of the Czech Republic. The Framework is to be reflected in regional and municipal policies and in the everyday life of the citizens in order to improve the quality of life.

Internally, as part of the coordination and administration of the project, we have newly developed a clear approach to engagement on the project website under the National Working Group for Improving Youth Participation at local and national level. Young people can sign up themselves using simple forms *Become an Ambassador, I want to do an action/project and want to be supported, Good Practice Example or I have a question or comment*.

In relation to this subtheme,
What impact and change do you expect your implementation activities will lead to, either now, or in the near future at **individual level or community level**? (Suggested word limit 200 words).

The individual benefit of the creation of Regional Youth Coordinators under the Rural Youth Platform is an improvement for the participation opportunities in the regions.

Another change in this theme is the simplification of the online call for participation options on the project website - young people choose the form of participation they prefer. We consider this to be a simple solution for young people, as they often prefer clear online tools to telephoning or other means of communication at first contact. After that, we make individual arrangements with them according to their needs. So we also have new applications from young people who want to be active in their local area but don't know how - we deal with this at an organisational level.

At the World of/without Youth Conference, Mental Health was chosen as one of the subjects. Young people had the opportunity to discuss the topic with experts and to express their views on it directly. Many of them learned how to take better care of their mental health and how schools can cooperate with related institutions that can further educate students and teachers on the topic and how to get involved in programmes. We consider this to be one aspect of developing sustainability as well.

In relation to this subtheme,
What impact and change do you expect your implementation activities will lead to, either now, or in the near future **at the organisational or service level?** (Suggested word limit 200 words).

At the organisational level, the membership of the Rural Youth Platform in the National Working Group provides an opportunity for active young people to make contacts directly in their region. This used to happen, for example, through regional youth councils and through leisure centres, but thanks to the Regional Youth Coordinators in the regions, volunteering and other activities of young people will have a greater impact on the decision-making processes of local governments.

Once young people who are interested in being active and getting involved have signed up, we offer them different options within the NWG - they can either become Structured Dialogue (EU Youth Dialogue) ambassadors directly and work on topical issues, or we can help them develop their own project. Either through the NWG coordinators or through its member (e.g. Children and Youth Leisure Centres or Regional Youth Coordinators of the Rural Youth Platform, which also includes smaller towns or other local organisations, or the National Agency). The NWG is now also developing a clear methodology for this, which builds on various European Union documents on youth participation, but takes into account the national and local needs of young people in the Czech Republic.

In relation to this subtheme,
What impact and change do you expect your implementation activities will lead to, either now, or in the near future **at the policy or political level?** (Suggested word limit 200 words).

Thanks to the World of/without Youth Conference, we were approached by the Government Office to nominate young people to the Inter-Ministerial Group on Digital Education. Representatives of the Parliament of Children and Youth of the Czech Republic, which brings together secondary school student governments, jumped at the opportunity. They are involved in the discussion and preparation of strategic documents. We coordinate mainly the sharing of information and documents between school governments, and we expect to strengthen these links and procedures in the future.

To be involved in the updating of the *Czech Republic 2030 strategic framework* is to take into account the perspective of young people as a specific group. According to the Framework, not only authorities but also citizens are to be involved in the implementation. It is part of the joint efforts for sustainable development of the EU and the Czech Republic's contribution to the implementation of the global Sustainable Development Goals adopted by the United Nations in 2015. These global goals are common, but each country, considering its own specificities, decides what specific content they should have and what specific way they can be achieved. Different groups of young people will be involved through focus groups that will take place at the end of March. This will be a qualitative engagement, focusing on all areas of the document. We are now negotiating the form of incorporating young people's views into the strategic framework.

Sub theme 3 Governance

Please describe the implementation activities you undertook which supported this subtheme (suggested word limit 200 words).

In this sub-theme we would like to highlight the youthwashing prevention aspects of the activities mentioned in sub-theme 2.

We consider the following as the main newly set mechanisms:

- improving the involvement of young people in advisory bodies
- young people's participation in the formulation of strategic documents
- the influence of young people on decision-making processes on the local level
- clear opportunities for participation and clearly articulated impact of different forms of youth involvement

The World of/without Youth Conference also generated ideas from young people on how to prevent youthwashing in general. In working groups they identified barriers and suggested possible solutions:

Barriers to youth participation currently at all levels:

- Access of school students to information about participation opportunities at local and national level - often not communicated to students by school management.
 - Proposed solutions:
 - Find someone responsible for sharing information outside of school management, for example, give this power to students governments - this is now being addressed in the project *How to improve student governments*
 - publishing official summary information on participation opportunities (overview of organisations, clubs, events...) on the web, e.g. with the support of the Ministry of Education
- insufficient support for participation within regions and sub-national governments
 - Proposed solutions:
 - networking meetings at least at the regional level
 - finding participation coordinators at the regional level
- lack of support from the school management for active students and lack of support from the teachers - they have no motivation to support students
 - Proposed solutions:
 - other professions in schools, e.g. social educators (not currently listed in the Teaching Staff Act - perhaps a legislative change is needed)
 - consider student participation as important as, for example, school representation in sport - for example, change the legislation on school activity reports (Education Act)
- according to young people, other aspects are setting expectations for each participation, setting boundaries, readiness and facilitation, simplification of political language

In relation to this subtheme, What impact and change do you expect your implementation activities will lead to, either now, or in the near future at **individual level or community level**? (Suggested word limit 200 words).

The impact of these developing measures (i.e. the new involvement of young people in advisory bodies and in the development of strategic documents) should increase awareness of the opportunities for participation. We are also developing cooperation at the level of Regional Youth Coordinators of participation, which should meet young people's demand for local participation.

The development of the methodology mentioned in sub-theme 2 should support the discussion on expected outcomes of participation that precedes participation. This will make it clear what impacts a particular engagement can and cannot have. This should help prevent disappointment and feelings of uselessness.

In relation to this subtheme,
What impact and change do you expect your implementation activities will lead to, either now, or in the near future **at the organisational or service level?** (Suggested word limit 200 words).

In some advisory bodies, young people are involved as representatives of a youth organisation or initiative - we try to ensure that the representation is visible to the whole membership of these organisations to multiply the number of people indirectly involved.

In relation to this subtheme,
What impact and change do you expect your implementation activities will lead to, either now, or in the near future **at the policy or political level?** (Suggested word limit 200 words).

Any changes in legislation regarding the promotion of participation by schools would have an impact on each individual young person. However, we are still in discussion with some policy makers on this matter.

When involving young people in the updating or development of strategic documents, we aim to follow the recommendation of the consultation report which emphasises feedback and follow up after participation activities. For example, for the focus groups of young people who will participate in the update of the *Czech Republic 2030 strategic framework*, we are now in the process of setting up the timing and form of the involvement of young people's opinions with the Ministry of the Environment. We are also negotiating involvement of young people in the next stages of the update: so in addition to the first focus groups, there may be comments on the document in the next steps. Of course, it also needs to be agreed how the final strategic framework will be presented to participants and other young people. For this document, setting up the process is important not only because of the prevention of youthwashing and the current quality of youth involvement, but also because it will serve as an example of good practice for involvement in other strategies, as it is one of the key strategic documents of the Czech Republic.

Young people themselves also opposed youthwashing: during the COP27 meeting, the youth delegates to the UN pointed out that they were not invited to the discussion on climate education and therefore considered their participation in COP27 as only formal. They did so directly there on social media in connection with the Czech Prime Minister.

Sub theme 4 Mobility and Solidarity

Please describe the implementation activities you undertook which supported this subtheme (suggested word limit 200 words).

In order to ensure that young people in rural areas have access to quality participation and to reduce the barriers for mobility, platform Rural Youth within Local Action Groups, a member of our NWG, have started a structured dialogue in the regions. The aim is to provide a space for the dialogue closer to young people from rural areas who might face barriers such as limited infrastructure. As it is mentioned above, the Platform has established coordinators in each region and they will be responsible for running the activities in collaboration with their local organisations.

Another member of the NWG, National Agency, is currently running various projects that support marginalized young people. All of them are EU programmes therefore there are probably known in other countries as well. The most important one is currently the DiscoverEU inclusion action that aims on supporting marginalized young people at the age of 18 years old in their international mobility. In the first round of the call, the Czech Republic had one of the best results in Europe. The National Agency is also trying to involve youth from children's homes or foster families in the long term.

In relation to this subtheme,
What impact and change do you expect your implementation activities will lead to, either now, or in the near future at **individual level or community level**? (Suggested word limit 200 words).

Involvement of young people from rural areas should lead to better access to participation and provide opportunities for further involvement of rural youth. The dialogue should also bring young people closer to decision makers in their regions.
Regarding the DiscoverEU inclusion action, it is important to state that the programme does not only provide a one-time mobility experience but is also an opportunity to create an easier way for marginalized young people to join other European programmes such as Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps.

In relation to this subtheme,
What impact and change do you expect your implementation activities will lead to, either now, or in the near future **at the organisational or service level**? (Suggested word limit 200 words).

Conduction of the dialogue by the platform Rural Youth could lead to the boost of membership and activities in the local branches.

The first results can be already seen when it comes to the efforts to involve young people from children's homes by the National Agency. Approved projects are starting to appear and children's homes are in the role of partners in projects, i.e. those who send young people to projects. In one of the regions, the integration of education with the help of European programs into the long-term strategy of children's homes is emerging.

In relation to this subtheme,
What impact and change do you expect your implementation activities will lead to, either now, or in the near future **at the policy or political level**? (Suggested word limit 200 words).

Young people from rural areas should be able to connect with local policy makers and provide them with their views and suggestions. This will benefit both young people and the

local political level as the dialogue could lead to more open municipalities as well as to changes at the local level that affects e.g. quality of life, stronger community, return of young people to their hometowns after studies etc.

Sub theme 5 Access to infrastructure

Please describe the implementation activities you undertook which supported this subtheme (suggested word limit 200 words).

We ran a separate workshop on this topic called 'A Sustainable Place' at the National Mutual Experience Exchange for youth workers - already mentioned in sub-theme 1. The workshop gave youth workers the opportunity to try out an activity that they can then do with the children and young people they work with. Given their focus, they could choose a group to create an ideal sustainable city, clubhouse or camp, using different materials (paper and paint, legos, urban puzzles...). The aim was to think of a working infrastructure for such a place, i.e. to think also about transportation, supply, waste and food management, situating such a place etc.

The aim of the workshop:

- to give the participants tips on how to work with children and young people on the topic of sustainable infrastructure and to try it out for themselves.
- to motivate workers with children and young people to open up and address the topic of sustainability with children and young people in their own organisations
- map what activities they are already doing on this topic, share good practice with each other
- pass on credible information resources on sustainability and sustainable infrastructure
- pass on tips for sustainable infrastructure

Infrastructure is also one of the topics addressed in *the Czech Republic 2030 strategic framework*, mentioned in other sub-themes.

In relation to this subtheme,
What impact and change do you expect your implementation activities will lead to, either now, or in the near future at **individual level or community level**? (Suggested word limit 200 words).

Participants' awareness of infrastructure and sustainability proved to be very diverse. At the workshop, some people learned about what they mean by sustainability and could also learn many interesting suggestions on how to improve the sustainability of infrastructure in cities or at their camp (or other events). On the other hand, for someone with a deeper understanding of the topic, it was a good space to explore how others are working with young people on this topic and bring this into their practice.

For most of them, it was then a useful guide on how they can open up the topic of sustainable infrastructure in their work with children and young people. Depending on their target group and also their objective, they can then choose which of the offered activities they find most appropriate.

In relation to this subtheme,
What impact and change do you expect your implementation activities will lead to, either now, or in the near future **at the organisational or service level**? (Suggested word limit 200 words).

For many of the workshop participants, this activity was an impulse to think about the topic of sustainability in their organizations and how it can be implemented in their everyday functioning (in the clubhouse or at the camp).

This is a good way to encourage the implementation of changes in the organisation, where young people and children themselves figure out how to improve the sustainability of their events (e.g. arranging to collect leftover food from the camp for livestock, tips on how to reduce waste at events, thinking about the accessibility of the clubhouse, camp or other event by public transport, etc.). By coming up with suggestions on their own, they are more interested in participating in them, and in a mass activity, they also gain more support with the members' base, making it easier for them to propose and enforce to the leadership.

In relation to this subtheme,
What impact and change do you expect your implementation activities will lead to, either now, or in the near future **at the policy or political level?** (*Suggested word limit 200 words*).

Through previous activities, there has not been an opportunity to specifically implement this topic separately in a political way. We foresee the inclusion of the needs of young people expressed in the consultations in the update of *the Czech Republic 2030 strategic framework*.