



MINISTERSTVO ŠKOLSTVÍ,  
MLÁDEŽE A TĚLOVÝCHOVY

**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, YOUTH AND SPORTS**  
Karmelitská 7, 118 12 Praha 1 - Malá Strana, Czech Republic

Michal Urban  
Director of Youth Department

Prague, April 6, 2011  
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Director General  
Mr. Jan Truszczyński  
European Commission  
DG Education and Culture  
Madou 1  
B - 1049 Brussels  
Belgium

Annex

**Subject: Common Position of Directors General responsible for Youth on Prospective Youth Programme**

Dear Mr. Truszczyński,

As agreed in an informal meeting of national delegations on an occasion of the last meeting of Youth Working Party being held in Brussels on March 21, 2011 the Directors General responsible for youth issues listed in the Annex use this opportunity to submit you a common position on the prospective Youth Programme.

The overall common position is based on our long-term expertise and a direct experience with an impact of both Youth Programme and Youth in Action Programme on young people in our respective Member States, as well as on our responsibility which we feel for maintaining as much as possible the time-proven procedural practice especially the current Programme's uniqueness in ensuring an equal access of all groups of young people to projects supporting non-formal learning processes as well as promoting and developing key-competences.

Currently the Member States lack adequate information on possible significant changes considered by the European Commission as well as concrete proposals which have not been submitted to Member States yet. The below signed Directors General therefore urge the European Commission to communicate to Member States concrete proposals on a new generation programme / programmes as soon as possible.

In response to your appeal to share with the European Commission concrete proposals concerning the prospective Youth Programme, the Directors General hereby submit to you the following principles which are seen as crucial ones for a new generation programme:

- It should be independent and oriented on the specific needs of the EU youth field;

- It should be a European instrument for implementing the EU-youth strategy adopted by the Council of the EU and should fulfil the aims of the Treaty of Lisbon;
- It should pursue the goals of the framework of cooperation in the youth field through facilitating non-formal learning and aim at improving the living conditions of young people in Europe through independent youth policy, thereby also contributing to the objectives of the EU 2020 Strategy and the Youth on the Move flagship initiative;
- It should facilitate links between other EU programmes and policy areas within the framework of its independent executions;
- It should be built on the positive foundation established by the current Youth in Action Programme and continue existing activities for and with young people and keep the positive impact on young people and youth work in Member States;
- It should focus more strongly on creating equal opportunities for all young people and continue efforts to integrate young people with fewer opportunities in all areas of the programme, in particular as it proved its capacity and capability to provide mobility opportunities for young people with fewer opportunities, and on fighting with social exclusion and youth employment;
- It should contribute to the development of youth work on local, regional, national and European level and to social and political recognition of youth work and non-formal learning;
- It should maintain the positive impact Youth in Action has on young people in terms of their identification with the democratic life and active citizenship in Europe;
- It should continue supporting small scale projects;
- It should continue fostering and supporting cooperation beyond the EU borders involving neighbouring and other partner countries of the world.

Finally:

- Programme procedures should be simplified (i.e. application forms, lump sums, risk oriented controls etc.) to achieve substantial reduction of administrative burden at all levels, in particular for the beneficiaries of the Programme;
- A decentralised programme management and a supportive approach of National Agencies in the whole project life cycle should be enhanced, in particular maintaining the concept of National Agencies as experts and supportive structures for young people, youth workers and youth leaders in the field of non-formal education.

On condition that the above stated principles are respected, it is seen well justified to keep independence of the prospective Youth Programme including its independence in terms of financial resources.

Generally we are open to new challenges that the envisaged changes may bring to the whole process of making improvement in the prospective programme life cycle. In order to reach our common goal it is highly recommended to open large-wide consultations and carry out an in-depth scientific analysis on an impact of envisaged changes on the target group of the current Youth in Action Programme before these changes in the programme life cycle are initiated. The final decision on form and structure of the future programme should be taken with the aim to ensure the outstandingly positive outcomes of the current programme and furthermore enhance the management efficiency as well as the programme implementation.

We, the Directors General listed in the Annex, believe that our proactive approach will contribute to the open discussion on the prospective Youth Programme in a great deal, and that the final decision on future form and structures of the new generation Programme which we want to be part of will meet real needs of young Europeans.

Yours sincerely,



## Annex

*The common position on the prospective Youth Programme is supported by the following Directors General:*

1. Ms An Vrancken, Belgium, Flemish Community  
Administrator-general of the Agency for Socio-Cultural Work for Youth and Adults
2. Ms Laurence Hermand , Belgium, French Community  
Director of BIJ (Bureau International Jeunesse)
3. Mr Leonhard Neycken, Belgium, German speaking Community  
Head of the Department of Cultural and Social Affairs
4. Mr Andreas Vyras, Cyprus  
President of the Youth Board of Cyprus
5. Mr Michal Urban, Czech Republic  
Director of Youth Department in the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports
6. Ms Anne Kivimäe, Estonia  
Head of Youth Affairs Department in the Ministry of Education and Research
7. Mr Lutz Stroppe, Germany  
General Director in the Youth Department of the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth
8. Mr Andrea Sergio Fantoma, Italy  
Head of the Department of Youth in the Presidency of the Council of Ministers
9. Ms Kristīne Vāgnere , Republic of Latvia  
Deputy State Secretary on Policy Issues, the Ministry of Education and Science
10. Mr Steponas Kulbauskas, Republic of Lithuania  
Deputy Director of Family Welfare Department of the Ministry of Social Security and Labour
11. Mr Nico Meisch, Luxembourg  
Head of Division Children, Youth and Families, Ministry for the Family and Integration
12. Mr Jarosław Jankowski, Poland  
Director of the Department for Youth and Non-governmental Organizations in the Ministry of Education
13. Ms Helena Alves, Portugal  
President of Portuguese Youth Institut
14. Ms Eva Masarova, Slovak Republic  
Director of Youth Department in the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport
15. Mr Gabriel Alconchel Morales, Spain  
Director-General of the Spanish Institute for Youth in the Ministry of Health, Social Policy and Equality

Cc: national delegates of Youth Working Party

General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union  
Network of Youth in Action National Agencies  
European Parliament (CULT, Youth Intergroup)