



European Youth  
Card Association

GOOD PRACTICE SERIES **NINE**

# ENGAGING YOUNG PEOPLE IN POLICY- MAKING

How EYCA involves un-organised youth  
in the EU Structured Dialogue

[eyca.org](http://eyca.org)

# EMPOWERING EUROPE'S YOUTH

We are the European Youth Card Association (EYCA) - a non-governmental, not-for-profit association of 39 member organisations in 36 countries across Europe. Together we work to empower Europe's youth.

EYCA member organisations issue the European Youth Card to 6 million young people and strive to achieve our vision of a Europe where all young people are mobile and active. We aim to encourage more young people to be socially, culturally, educationally, and economically mobile by delivering quality European Youth Card services and by contributing to better youth policy.

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## EYCA & THE EU STRUCTURED DIALOGUE WITH YOUTH

As part of our commitment to support and encourage active citizenship, we work to engage young people in the EU Structured Dialogue - a form of joint policy-making giving young Europeans the opportunity to shape youth policy.

Through the Structured Dialogue, young people give their input on specific topics via online questionnaires, events and debates with policymakers at all levels. Every six months, youth delegates and policymakers meet at the EU Youth Conference to discuss the contributions received from young people and formulate a set of Joint Recommendations to Youth Ministers in the Council of the EU. These recommendations form the basis of a Council Resolution addressed to European institutions and national authorities.



## EYCA & THE EUROPEAN YOUTH FORUM WORK TOGETHER TO REACH MORE YOUNG PEOPLE

EYCA members support the Structured Dialogue and, as a result of their efforts, many of the young people engaged in the consultation phase of the process are European Youth Cardholders. As an acknowledgment of this support and to further increase its impact, EYCA and the European Youth Forum have signed a Memorandum of Understanding committing to work together to help more young voices shape national and EU policy.

***Here are a few examples of the great work EYCA members do to involve young people in the Structured Dialogue...***



## EYCA MEMBER WINS EUROPEAN COMMISSION AWARD FOR BEST STRUCTURED DIALOGUE PROJECT

In 2015 the European Commission chose Have your Say - the Structured Dialogue project of the Czech Council of Children and Youth, the EYCA member in the Czech Republic - as an exemplary youth project. Launched in 2010, the project has so far engaged over 20,000 young people in the Structured Dialogue process. Have your Say also encourages young people to raise issues that interest them and create a public debate around their real needs. Since the beginning of the project, 14 major topics have been discussed in over 130 events, ranging from workshops and festivals to formal debates with politicians and government officials.





## **70% OF STRUCTURED DIALOGUE RESPONSES IN FINLAND CAME FROM EUROPEAN YOUTH CARDHOLDERS**

In the first half of 2015, over 2,000 of the 3,000 young people who responded to the Structured Dialogue questionnaire in Finland were European Youth Cardholders. In order to reach more young people, Allianssi, the EYCA member in Finland, created a simplified questionnaire and shared it via all card communication channels. The response from cardholders was overwhelmingly positive, encouraging the organisation to continue using the card to reach and engage un-organised young people.

## **RECORD RESPONSES FROM CARDHOLDERS IN POLAND**

The Polish Youth Projects Association (PYPA), the EYCA member in Poland, had amazing results in promoting the Structured Dialogue to European Youth Cardholders. PYPA simplified the questionnaire and shared it through the European Youth Card newsletter, website and social media. A record 3,100 responses of the total 3,900 received in Poland during the Danish Presidency of the Council of the EU came from cardholders. This was the highest number of young people engaged by a single organisation during that Structured Dialogue cycle.

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***European Youth Cardholders represented 80% of young people engaged during a Structured Dialogue consultation cycle in Poland.***

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**eyca.org**



Want to find out more about EYCA and how we can work together? Contact us!

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Published by the European Youth Card Association in June 2016. Changes in circumstances after the time of publication may impact on the accuracy of this information. For more details, please contact EYCA.