



Conclusions from Multiplier event held on March 11th in Zagreb, Croatia

YouthGoals Laboratory is a project funded by Erasmus+ programme and run by partnership consortium made of: National youth councils of Austria, Germany, Portugal, Cyprus and Croatia alongside researcher Ondrej Barta. As a part of project there were two multipliers, first held in Vienna in December of 2019 and the other one in Zagreb in March of 2020. More than 40 participants discussed on intellectual outputs 1 and 2 which were presented by representatives of project consortium. Key outputs of multiplier event were produced during group work on different topics all related to the implementation of the Youth Goals. These findings are summarised in the next few pages of this document. Event was organised by Croatian Youth Network and facilitated by Sara Susanj.



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union



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Topics that were proposed by the participants and later discussed in groups:

- a) Best practice sharing – group that would talk about existing practices of popularizing and/or implementing Youth Goals and how to share those practices
- b) Mapping indicators – which indicators exist on which level, how can they be made universal and is there a need to change/update some of the youth policy indicators in order to make Youth Goals easier to analyse
- c) Rural– since Youth Goal “Moving rural youth forward” is the theme of Croatian presidency over the Council of the EU one group decided to discuss what Rural is and
- d) Youth Goals for policy makers – group that would talk about how to make Youth Goals known and interesting for decision makers
- e) Youth Goals for youth organizations and young people – group that would discuss on how to involve youth organizations and young people in implementation but also in general how to make Youth Goals more youth friendly

A) Best practice sharing

Participants in the group talked and showcased examples from two different sides; visibility and implementation.

On visibility side:

- youth organizations and National youth councils have good experience of connecting Youth Goals with regional level, often much better and easier to do than to go directly on national level
- some youth organizations and institutions included Youth Goals in their working plans or added them to their guiding documents



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- important step is to add Youth Goals to websites like YouthWiki and other places where there is information on youth policies
- in Austria Youth Goals are widespread through different ministries (in documents, on websites) which is a good example on how to strengthen the ownership of YGs
- example from Cyprus, Youth Parliament which “simulates” the work of actual parliament but their topics are based on YGs. Decisions and recommendations that are developed in the Youth Parliament are later presented to the policy makers and other stakeholders

On implementation side

- practice that so far exists in just a few countries but should be widely adopted, using YGs as a basis & framework for developing different Youth strategies and/or Laws
- there is existing link between YGs and SDGs but it should be build upon
- development of national indicators on implementation of YGs
- YGs should be recognized and valued in projects dealing with youth participation
- new tools of European Youth Strategy should be connected to/with YGs

B) Mapping indicators

This group developed several recommendations on how to develop and expand indicators for YGs

- enhance the involvement of policy makers in the implementation phase; since YGs are cross-sectorial it is necessary to bring everyone on board with YGs. Good opportunity for that is through the National working groups.



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- Indicators can be used as both an evaluation tool and a political tool for actors on multiple levels
- National Youth Councils could/should create indicators, for example as a part of the project, which can then be shared with other Youth Councils or National working groups
- Indicators should be simple and creation of them can be seen as a learning process
- Even though the YGs are pan European the solutions don't have to be, different realities mean different opportunities and solutions
- Once Expert group on indicators develops recommendations those should be discussed with young people and European Youth Forum
- On national level first step could be the adoption of European indicators and adapting them to the national context
- Follow up and evaluation of the indicators can be used as a tool for national advocacy, here is great potential and role for National working groups
- Formulation of the indicators should happen in cooperation between National youth councils and relevant ministries
- National statistics authorities should be involved when discussions comes to the topic of data collection
- Interministerial cooperation is needed to mainstream the YGs and Youth strategies across all areas

C) Rural

- What is "rural" is defined differently in every country



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- It can depend on stage of development (things like income, unemployment rate, fluctuation of population, average age, level of education etc), geographical parameters or infrastructure
- Often with word “rural” is associated stigmatization (less intelligent people, not interested in decision making, old people..) gender and other differences are more emphasized or expected to be like that
- When it comes to young people living in rural areas, they are usually involved in leisure activities (voluntary fire brigades, sport activities, traditional dancing and/or singing)

D) Youth Goals for policy makers

One of the idea from this group was to “nationalise the YGs”, which means to make YGs more appropriate for national contexts. To achieve that we need to find national initiatives that cover the YGs on national or regional level. It would also benefit to familiarise YGs so they are easier to approach in each country, for example by labelling already existing positive practices with corresponding YG that they help achieve. Focusing on the national level would remove a possibility of negative connotations from the EU programme (presenting idea as a national rather than European). YGs should still stay as a European framework but we should develop more specific sub-goals that would help bridge youth goals to local, regional and national authorities. Finally, YGs should continue to be integral part of future EUYC conferences to make sure there is still some type of pressure or encouragement coming from the EU level.

Second broad idea that was discussed related to which policy actors to involve and how to make YGs more known among policy makers. Group started by highlighting probably one of the most important factors – YGs like youth policy in general is cross-sectorial. This means that to achieve them it is necessary to get support from different stakeholders on national and sometimes regional level. In come countries it could be useful to integrate in some way YGs as a part of National Youth Plans or even Law on Youth. When it comes to identifying stakeholders, first



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step should definitely be National working group. It is okay and sometimes even desirable to have short time partners, meaning developing cooperation with institutions but also recognizing their capacities and not involving them in each and every step, that way their time and effort invested would be worthwhile for them and therefore easier to attract them.

E) Youth Goals for Youth organizations and young people

- Big role of National Youth Councils. They/We should work hard to inform and raise awareness on YGs among member organisations. Also, NYCs should advocate for introducing YGs in national plans and politics
- When it comes to youth organizations, key is to incite them to use YGs in their projects, as a basis or as a advocacy tool
- NWGs and youth organizations should organize dialogue events but allowing participants to discuss broader topics, not confine them to the YGs. When they get familiarized with the dialogue then it's time to introduce YGs with an aim of preparing the ground for some conclusions and/or recommendations
- YGs are not youth friendly on its own; we should strive to make the language and goals easier to understand. Proposals in the group varied; from proposing games that could introduce YGs to young people to making interesting and captivating visual solutions. If we decide to adapt YGs in national context, besides decision makers, we should also involve young people, it would provide us with their perspective but also get them engaged
- This year we also celebrate 10 years of the Youth Dialogue which is a great opportunity to make YGs more visible



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- When talking about the EU Youth Dialogue it's important to build upon YGs. They are a product of the cycle but should also be theme for several next cycles. Also, Youth Conferences are great opportunity to introduce YGs to new young people

Final remarks from participants

All participants agreed that we need more projects of this kind, especially if EUYD cycle is not giving enough attention to the Youth Goals. Several concrete ideas were developed during the event and some organizations (European Youth Forum, National Youth Councils) and networks (RAY network) already took on themselves to make changes that are reflecting recommendations earlier mentioned.

During evaluation most of the participants found the event useful and interesting. They often compared it and concluded that it was better and more on point than the EU Youth Conference in Zagreb, which took place for 2 days prior to this event. Important element which was deemed positive was inclusion of different stakeholders from national and European level but with most of the participants still coming from National youth councils.

Croatian Youth Network would like to take this opportunity to thank all the partners from consortium for their help in developing and executing this event. We would also like to thank our facilitator, hosts and most importantly all of participants for productive work they accomplished during our event.