



# Conference on the **Future** of **Europe**

## **SUMMARY RECORD**

**Working Group on Education, Culture, Youth and Sport**

**Chaired by Silja Markkula, European Youth Forum**

**22 October 2021, 11:00-13:00**

### **1. Introductory remarks of the Chair**

This was the first meeting of the Working Group, held in hybrid format. The Chair, Ms Silja Markkula, welcomed members and explained that the aim of the meeting was to allow them to get to know each other and have a first discussion on emerging themes and ideas coming from the citizens' panels and the Multilingual Digital Platform. She gave an overview of the contributions made under the topic of 'Education, culture, youth and sport' on the digital platform so far, covering the themes of youth unemployment, common EU identity, future-proof education, intra-EU mobility and European heritage. She also mentioned the relevant outcomes of the European Youth Event, where similar themes had been raised.

Referring to the process ahead, the Chair highlighted that the Working Group would work by consensus. She also noted that due to the cross-sectoral nature of some of the areas covered, such as youth, there would be some overlaps with the work of other Working Groups. The Chair then opened the floor to all members, starting with the representatives of European Citizens' Panels.

### **2. Discussion**

The representatives from the European Citizens' Panel "A stronger economy, social justice and jobs/Education, culture, youth and sport/Digital transformation" gave an overview of the relevant topics raised during the first session of the panel held on 17–19 September. These included education and youth mobility, youth unemployment, the impact of COVID-19 on young people, language learning and the role of European symbols.

Members of the working group provided their reactions to citizens' contributions and outlined their expectations for the work ahead. Many interventions focused on youth and education. In particular, the following points were raised:

- Several speakers stressed the importance of tackling youth unemployment in the wake of the COVID-19 crisis and facilitating young people's access to the labour market.
- There were also calls to ensure quality jobs and fair remuneration for young people, including by tackling the issue of unpaid traineeships.
- The significant social and psychological impact of the COVID-19 crisis on young people and their access to education was raised.
- Some speakers focused on intra-EU mobility, including sustainability aspects and possible further measures to facilitate student mobility.
- There were calls to improve civic education about the EU in schools, as well as some suggestions to create a common programme or a common history book to foster common European identity.
- The importance of education and culture in the fight against racism and intolerance was also highlighted.



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- Some members suggested lowering the voting age to 16, while others considered that this was not a consensual issue.
- Linguistic diversity and protecting linguistic minorities were mentioned as key elements of European identity.
- Issues related to sports and promoting healthy lifestyles were also discussed, as well as the role of international cultural and sports events in strengthening common European identity.

Some speakers highlighted existing EU-level initiatives in the fields of education, culture, youth and sport in their interventions, calling for work to be built upon these foundations. Others recalled limited EU competences in the areas covered by the Working Group. There were also calls for mainstreaming youth into EU policies, given the links of this field with other policy areas.

Interventions also covered the organisation of discussions in the Working Group. Several members called for better structuring the debate, raising the possibility of work in sub-groups in future meetings in addition to the plenary format. The need to make concrete suggestions as input to the Plenary was also underlined.

### **3. Concluding remarks of the Chair**

The Chair summarised the recurrent issues raised in the debate and emphasised the richness of the proposals that can be made to the Plenary. She also noted the wish of members to use other formats in addition to plenary format to deepen discussions at Working Group meetings and expressed her willingness to come back to this issue.

Members were informed that by the time of the next meeting of the Working Group in December, the recommendations of the European Citizens' Panel would be available and the Working Group would need to base its work on them. The Chair also recalled that the Multilingual Digital Platform would remain available for proposing and discussing concrete ideas throughout the Conference.



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## ANNEX. List of members of the Working Group on Education, Culture, Youth and Sport

**Chair: Silja MARKKULA (European Youth Forum)**

| Title | First name     | Last name           | Component                              |
|-------|----------------|---------------------|--|
| Ms    | Greta Karoline | ADAMEK              | European Citizens' Panels              |
| Ms    | Christine      | ANDERSON            | European Parliament                    |
| Mr    | Tiago          | ANTUNES             | Council                                |
| Mr    | Hugues         | BAYET               | National Parliaments                   |
| Mr    | Mikuláš        | BEK                 | National Parliaments                   |
| Mr    | Matteo Luigi   | BIANCHI             | National Parliaments                   |
| Mr    | Emil           | BOC                 | Local/Regional representative          |
| Ms    | Fabíola        | CARDOSO             | National Parliaments                   |
| Ms    | Paula          | CARVALHO            | Council                                |
| Mr    | Lefteris       | CHRISTOFOROU        | European Parliament                    |
| Ms    | Gabriela       | CRETU               | National Parliaments                   |
| Mr    | François       | DECOSTER            | Committee of the Regions               |
| Ms    | Daniela        | DUMITRU             | European Citizens' Panels              |
| Ms    | Laurence       | FARRENG             | European Parliament                    |
| Ms    | Kinga          | GAL                 | European Parliament                    |
| Mr    | Juan           | GONZÁLEZ-BARBA PERA | Council                                |
| Ms    | Josune         | GOROSPE             | National Parliaments                   |
| Mr    | Enzo           | GORZA               | European Citizens' Panels              |
| Ms    | Alicia         | HOMS GINEL          | European Parliament                    |
| Ms    | Zuzana         | HOZLÁROVÁ           | National citizens' panels/events       |
| Ms    | Tea            | JARC                | Social Partners                        |
| Ms    | Danuta         | JAZŁOWIECKA         | National Parliaments                   |
| Ms    | Željka         | JOSIĆ               | Council                                |
| Mr    | Peter          | KMEC                | National Parliaments                   |
| Mr    | Antonis        | KOURRAS             | National citizens' panels/events       |
| Ms    | Regina         | LAUCYTE             | European Citizens' Panels              |
| Mr    | Kieran         | MCCARTHY            | Committee of the Regions               |
| Ms    | Nora           | MEBAREK             | European Parliament                    |
| Ms    | Dace           | MELBĀRDE            | European Parliament                    |
| Mr    | Jean Claude    | MICALLEF            | National Parliaments                   |
| Ms    | Baiba          | MILTOVICA           | European Economic and Social Committee |
| Mr    | Vidmantas      | MITKUS              | National citizens' panels/events       |
| Mr    | Victor         | NEGRESCU            | European Parliament                    |
| Mr    | Elyes          | OUERGHI             | European Citizens' Panels              |
| Mr    | George         | PAPANDREOU          | National Parliaments                   |



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|    |          |              |  |
|----|----------|--------------|--|
| Mr | Igors    | PIMENOVŠ     | National Parliaments                   |
| Ms | Anne     | PRÉDOUR      | Council                                |
| Ms | Janinie  | REINARTZ     | Council                                |
| Mr | Paul     | RUBIG        | European Economic and Social Committee |
| Mr | Piero    | SAVARIS      | European Citizens' Panels              |
| Mr | Axel     | SCHÄFER      | National Parliaments                   |
| Ms | Michaela | SOJDROVA     | European Parliament                    |
| Mr | Guy      | VERHOFSTADT  | European Parliament                    |
| Ms | Isabel   | WISELER-LIMA | European Parliament                    |
| Ms | Salima   | YENBOU       | European Parliament                    |
| Ms | Marina   | ZELENETSKA   | European Citizens' Panels              |