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EMN YOUTH DAY – YOUTH, MIGRATION NARRATIVES AND POLICIES AGENDA

version of 15 November 2022

1. BACKGROUND

The EU recognises the importance of young people's well-being, development, engagement, and participation in society at large. That is why so many youth programmes and initiatives have been launched over time: from the well-known Erasmus exchange programme, which started in 1987, to the most recent involvement of young people in the Conference on the Future of Europe where a third of the participants in citizens' panels are aged under 25.

The EU has designated 2022 the European Year of Youth to highlight the importance of young people's futures by including young people and their priorities in policymaking and organising youth-focused activities across the EU. Migration and inclusion are, in general, mentioned by young people as key concerns.¹ In addition, young people are a highly mobile social group, and international migration creates opportunities to improve their lives and those of their families.

Policy decisions on these matters will shape our future realities. In many countries, migration is a politicised subject. Public debates about the issue are often not well-grounded in facts and lack a balanced representation of different points of view. Hence, it is important to both involve young people and youth organisations in developing migration narratives and channel their contribution to supporting the migration process.

In this context, the event aims at collecting reflections of youth representatives on how youth could and should be more effectively engaged in understanding and shaping migration policies and narratives. Participants will develop an awareness of the complexities related to policy-making and the importance of youth engagement.

The event will also include a session to gather ideas in view of an EU-level awareness campaign that DG HOME plans to launch in 2023 with the aim of increasing migration literacy, addressing disinformation and misinformation on migration and showcasing the added value of the EU's approach to migration and its positive impacts.

¹ Report on the results of the call for ideas on the European Youth Event, available at: https://europa.eu/youth/news/european-year-youth-online-survey-results-are-out_en (last accessed on 5 July 2022).

2. TARGET AUDIENCE

The events will gather youth in the age range of 18-24 years old. All the following categories are welcome to express interest to participate:

- Students (including final-year secondary school students)
- Young Workers
- Youth representatives or activists
- National youths with an interest in migration issues;
- National youths with a migrant background;
- Migrant youths, including asylum seekers, with legal migration status².

The EMN will ensure having a group with a diverse composition in terms of social, cultural, and ethnic background.

Participants are expected to have a good command of English.

3. FORMAT

FORMAT

The EMN Youth Day will consist of **decentralised in-person national events** in EMN Member (EU Member States except Denmark) and Observer Countries (GE, MD, UA, ME, AM) **joined up at one EU-level online event**.

The event will alternate national sessions and EU-level moderated discussions. The event will have one EU-level moderator and national moderators (EMN National Contact Points) to allow for a multi-level discussion.

Each national face-to-face event will be attended by 20-25 participants.

The working language will be English for the EU level and the joint sessions.

The event will not be recorded for data protection reasons.

DATE OF EVENT

16 November 2022 – UN's International Day of Tolerance.

Please check the national programme: EMN NCPs may organise an optional study visit to a migration centre or similar entity the day before/after the event (depending on the availability)

² This comprises migrants in the process of applying for a legal migration status as well as asylum applicants.

AGENDA

Time	
09.30-09.45	<p>Opening: introduction to the day</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome words by Michael Shotter, Director, Migration and Asylum, DG HOME, European Commission.
09.45-10.20	<p>Introduction to the event – why we are here and key questions.</p> <p>Moderator: Magnus Ovilius, Head of Sector, Forecasting, preparedness and policy monitoring, Chair of the European Migration Network, DG HOME, European Commission.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation: <i>How can we tell a more positive story about migration?</i> Speaker: Tina Zournatzi, Head of Unit, Communication, DG HOME, European Commission. Presentation: <i>Exploring the feasibility of the development of an EU Youth Mobility Scheme.</i> Speaker: Anita Vella, Head of Unit, Legal Pathways and Integration, DG HOME, European Commission
10.20-10.45	<p>TED-style talk³ on youth, migration narratives and communication.</p> <p>Speaker: Nour Machlah, Policy Advisor on integration and inclusion in the European Union, TED speaker and activist.</p>
10.45-12.15	<p>Destination Europe Tool: Negotiate migration policy and see the impacts of your decisions.</p> <p>Moderator: <i>EMN National Contact Points</i></p> <p><i>Participants will have the opportunity to engage in a role-play on negotiating migration policy and see the impacts of their decisions. The session stimulates reflections on the challenges and opportunities of migration and the different interests at stake that need to be balanced when shaping migration policies.</i></p> <p><i>Note: Depending on the preferences of each EMN Member and Observer Countries, participants will use the Destination Europe Educational Tool or have an equivalent interactive discussion.</i></p>
12.15-13.00	<p>Lunch break</p>

³ A TED talk is a public-speaking presentation that was originally given at the main TED (technology, entertainment and design) annual event or one of its many satellite events around the world. TED is a non-profit devoted to spreading ideas, usually in the form of short, powerful talks, often called "TED talks".

<p>13.00-13.45</p>	<p>Interactive debrief in national groups</p> <p>Moderator: <i>EMN National Contact Points</i></p> <p><i>Each national group will de-brief on their learning from the role-play, reflecting on:</i></p> <p><i>(i) what they learned during the role-play, and what they felt were the most important, and poorly understood issues about migration that should be better communicated</i></p> <p><i>(ii) key messages a migration awareness campaign should include</i></p> <p><i>(iii) what opportunities would a youth mobility scheme offer to third countries</i></p> <p><i>(iv) how to make EU initiatives attractive for a youth audience and how to engage Youth in shaping them</i></p>
<p>13.45-14.30</p>	<p>EU-moderated interactive discussions among national groups</p> <p>Moderator: Magnus Ovilius, Head of Sector, Forecasting, preparedness and policy monitoring, Chair of the European Migration Network, DG HOME, European Commission.</p> <p><i>Each national group to share their conclusions and reflection from the earlier session, via online interactive tools and short interventions.</i></p>
<p>14.30-15.00</p>	<p>Closing remarks - Takeaway messages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Magnus Ovilius, Head of Sector, Forecasting, preparedness and policy monitoring, Chair of the European Migration Network, DG HOME, European Commission. ▪ <i>All participants to share final thoughts by using online interactive tools</i>
<p>15.00-17.00</p>	<p>Optional programme</p>

DISCLAIMER

This event is promoted by the European Migration Network (EMN) which is a Europe-wide network providing information on migration and asylum. The EMN consists of [National Contact Points \(NCPs\)](#) in the EMN Member (EU Member States except for Denmark) and Observer Countries (NO, GE, MD, UA, ME, AM), the European Commission and the EMN Service Provider (ICF). The event does not necessarily reflect the opinions and views of the European Commission, the EMN Service Provider (ICF) or the EMN NCPs, nor are they bound by its conclusions. Similarly, the European Commission, ICF and the EMN NCPs are in no way responsible for any use made of the information provided.