About the project

The project “Y-FED: Europe is what we make of it” aims to bring the EU closer to its young citizens by developing a proposal for an improved institutional framework of the Union in line with the European Youth Goals. The initiative, supported by an Erasmus+ “European Youth Together” grant, will be implemented between January 2020 and July 2021 through a series of capacity-building training courses, public policy hackathons, a large-scale simulation of a reformed EU and advocacy actions. The project partners comprise 18 civil society organisations as well as 2 networks of European and regional decision-makers.

Implementation

In the first phase of the project, young activists will be trained to prepare “Shape Europe” hackathons implemented in 5 European countries. During an expert meeting, the outcomes of the hackathons will be reviewed and compiled into a set of recommendations. These outputs will allow the development of a model of a reformed EU that is closer to its citizens and allows for effective implementation of the European Youth Goals (EYGs).

The project’s main highlight, the Youth simulation of the EU, will give young people the opportunity to test the developed model following a series of preparatory webinars. By playing the roles of decision-makers, lobbyists and journalists, the participants will get involved in a reformed EU decision-making process. Through this first-hand experience, they will improve their understanding of EU governance and will be able to discuss ways of bringing it closer to European citizens while keeping the EYGs in mind.

In the second phase of the project, young people will become advocates for the implementation of the reformed EU institutional model based on the outcomes of the simulation and in line with the EYGs. All the outputs of the project, including a set of policy recommendations, will be presented at the final conference attended by youth activists and political stakeholders.

Partners and roles

The Y-FED consortium, composed of local and European organisations representing the interests of diverse groups, will ensure that the voices of young people from different countries and socio-cultural backgrounds shape the deliverables of the project. The partners and their roles include:

- **Young European Federalists (JEF Europe)**: overall project coordination; contribution to the content of all events; external communication & promotion; coordination of public policy hackathons.
- **Youth of European Nationalities (YEN)**: training for hackathon organisers; ensuring the diversity of event participants; contribution to external communication.
- **Les Jeunes Européens – France (JEF France)**: Youth Simulation of the EU; preparation webinars before the Youth Simulation; sending participants to events; contribution to external communication.
- **Assembly of European Regions (AER)**: training for advocacy and lobbying, coordination of regional and local advocacy actions; contribution to external communication.
- **Out of the Box International (OTB)**: quality assurance and evaluation; contribution to external communication.
- **Union of European Federalists (UEF)**: raising awareness of the project among political stakeholders; final policy recommendations; final conference; contribution to external communication.
- **Spinelli Group**: raising awareness of the project among political stakeholders; contribution to external communication.
- **Global Challenges Foundation**: sharing expertise on international governance models and supporting the organisation of the expert meeting.
- **JEF Belgium, JEF Croatia, JEF Latvia, JEF Italy, Balkans Beyond Borders (Greece)**: public policy hackathons; sending participants to events; contribution to external communication.
• JEF Bulgaria, JEF Finland, JEF Germany, JEF Malta, JEF North Macedonia, JEF Slovenia, JEF Spain, Europe4Youth (Poland): sending participants to events; implementation of local advocacy actions; contribution to external communication.

Learn more: https://jef.eu/project/y-fed-europe-is-what-we-make-of-it/