



Opportunities for young people in Europe

Introduction

In order for young people to get the right experience, skills, and qualifications, they need the right information to guide them to the opportunities available. At Eurodesk, we aim to support young people by showing them the different ways they can get experience in Europe.

This booklet aims to give an insight into the different opportunities available to young people; whether you want to represent the voice of young people in the UK, or volunteer in another European country and learn a new skill.



Representing UK Youth

Getting experience in Europe can help you learn about yourself, about other cultures, and gain valuable skills for your future. Here are just a few ways to take part in European projects and represent UK youth with your talents and interests.

British Youth Council



The British Youth Council is the National Youth Council of the UK. A youth-led charity, we empower young people aged 25 and under to influence the decisions that affect their lives. We support young people to get involved in their communities and democracy locally, nationally and internationally, making a difference as volunteers, campaigners, decision-makers and leaders.

BYC is made up of more than 230 member organisations that represent millions of young people and collectively we work to support our common vision for young people.

For more info and how to get involved — www.BYC.org.uk



UK Young Ambassadors



BYC also supports the UK Young Ambassadors network who advocate and campaign on behalf of the UK's young people on European, Commonwealth and Global platforms and issues.

For more info and how to get involved — www.UKYA.org.uk

European Youth Forum



The European Youth Forum (YFJ) is the platform of youth organisations in Europe. Representing 99 youth organisations, both National Youth Councils and International Non-Governmental Youth Organisations, they believe youth organisations are the tool through which they empower, encourage, involve, represent, reach out and support young people. The Youth Forum brings together tens of millions of young people from all over Europe, organised in order to represent their common interests.

The British Youth Council through the UK Young Ambassadors represents the views of young people from the UK on the European youth Forum.

For more info — www.youthforum.org



Structured Dialogue



Structured Dialogue is a process for discussions between young people and policy makers to make sure the opinions of young people are taken into account in the EU's youth policies.

The themes are decided by EU Youth Ministers; then a committee of the current trio of EU Presidency countries, the European Commission and the European Youth Forum is responsible for coordinating the process and deciding upon sets of questions to be asked to young people across Europe

These questions are then used as the basis for national consultations in each EU country, organised by National Working Groups. In the UK the process is led by the elected UK Young Ambassadors and the British Youth Council who consult other youth organisations, stakeholders and young people.

To find out more about Structured dialogue in the UK visit — www.UKYA.org.uk



European Youth Parliament



Are you young, open-minded and curious to discover alternative views, experience other cultures and meet new people, have an interest in issues that affect the society we live in, like to discuss current topics with young people from other countries, appreciate the value of fun = then join the European Youth Parliament!

The European Youth Parliament (EYP) is a unique educational programme which brings together young people from all over Europe to discuss current topics in a parliamentary setting. EYP is present in 39 European countries and organises almost 500 events every year. Thousands of young people are active as volunteers all over Europe, making EYP a programme truly for young people, by young people.

"I've learned more in 10 days of EYP than in 15 years of school."

– Delegate, 18, Italy

If you are interested in joining an EYP Session with your school or as an individual, get in contact with the EYP National Committee in your country for more information.

Get involved — <http://eyp.org/>

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European Voluntary Service

Are you between 17 and 30 and willing to spend from 2 weeks to 12 months abroad as a volunteer? Then European Voluntary Service is for you!

An EVS project is a partnership between two or more organisations. They are responsible for recruiting volunteers for their project. As a volunteer you can work in a wide range of fields, such as culture, youth, sports, children, cultural heritage, arts, animal welfare, environment and development cooperation. You will receive free accommodation, food, insurance and pocket money. The only thing you might have to pay is a small part of your travel costs.

https://europa.eu/youth/EU/voluntary-activities/european-voluntary-service_en



European Union Contest for Young Scientists

The European Union Contest for Young Scientists is an annual showcase of the best projects developed by young scientists in many different fields and from many countries. The EU Contest gives students the opportunity to compete with the best of their contemporaries at European level, to compare ideas, to meet other contestants with similar abilities and interests, as well as to be guided by some of the most prominent scientists in Europe.

To find out more click here — <http://www.eucys2015.eu/>

European Youth Award

The European Youth Award (EYA) is a pan-European contest to motivate young people, social entrepreneurs and start-ups to produce digital projects with impact on society. It demonstrates their potential to create innovative solutions with Internet and Mobile technology addressing the goals defined by the Council of Europe and Europe 2020.

If you live in the EU, are under 33 and have produced an outstanding, innovative digital project to improve society (eg website, app, wearable device, digital installation) - you can apply!!

REGISTER HERE — <http://www.eu-youthaward.org/>

Information and Support

Eurodesk



Eurodesk can help you get the best out of Europe, whether you want to work, study, volunteer or just see more of the continent. They have representatives in countries across Europe, offering free advice and support to young people who want to travel and try something new, but need some help getting started.

If you're part of a youth organisation (or work for one) and would like to plan a volunteering trip, or maybe an exchange, they can put you in contact with organisations in other European countries that have similar interests. They can also offer advice about where you can apply for funding, and advise how you could be a host to a group of young people from another European country.

www.eurodesk.org.uk



European Youth Portal



The European Youth Portal offers European and national information and opportunities that are of interest to young people who are living, learning and working in Europe. It gives information around eight main themes, covers 33 countries and is available in 27 languages.

Topics -

- Volunteering
- Working
- Learning
- Taking Part
- Culture & Creativity
- Health
- Social Inclusion
- Think Global
- Travelling

For more information — www.europa.eu/youth

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with thanks to BYC

