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**COMMISSION STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT**  
**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE EVALUATION**  
**of the EU Youth Strategy**

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The Council Resolution of 2009 on a renewed framework for European cooperation in the youth field for 2010-2018<sup>1</sup> sets out the EU Youth Strategy. It aims to create more and equal opportunities for all young people in education and on the labour market, and promote social inclusion and solidarity. The strategy includes eight fields of action: education and training, employment and entrepreneurship, health and well-being, participation, voluntary activities, social inclusion, youth and the world, creativity and culture. The strategy is implemented through the open method of coordination. It is based on knowledge and evidence-building, mutual learning, progress reporting, dissemination of results, monitoring of the process, structured dialogue, and mobilisation of EU programmes and funds. These instruments are used both to implement specific youth initiatives and to support the inclusion of a youth perspective in other fields. The implementation of the 2008 Council Recommendation on the Mobility of Young Volunteers across the EU<sup>2</sup> became an objective of the strategy that was adopted one year later.

The purpose of this evaluation was to assess the relevance, coherence, EU added value, effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability of the strategy's objectives and implementation. The evaluation was supported by an independent study using mixed methods of data collection. These consisted in the mapping of activities, online surveys of young Europeans and youth organisations, interviews with stakeholders, and case studies. Following the adoption of the better regulation agenda, the study was complemented by a public online consultation managed by the Commission. The evaluation covered all EU Member States over the period from 2010 until mid-2015.

European cooperation on youth issues before 2010 showed positive impacts but did not always prove effective. Coordination of youth issues was insufficient in many Member States whose youth policies were at very different stages. The strategy launched in 2010 gave a strong impulse to national youth agendas. It strengthened or reoriented youth policy priorities in a number of Member States. It encouraged cross-sectoral cooperation, the production of evidence, mutual learning, structured dialogue with young people, and the use of Youth in Action and its successor programme Erasmus+ to reach EU strategic objectives.

## Findings

The evaluation underlines that the strategy has been **relevant** to the needs and problems of young Europeans and to the activities of youth policy-makers in all EU Member States. This was partly due to its very broad scope; relevance varied according to the level of youth policy development in the Member State. The strategy's objectives and priorities were **coherent** with those of EU other policy areas. The main **EU added value** for Member States was that it provided them with policy inspiration, knowledge and expertise, leverage and legitimacy, opportunities and resources. The evaluation found that the strategy was partially **effective** in triggering concrete changes at national and organisational level, although reporting

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<sup>1</sup> Council Resolution of 27 November 2009 on a renewed framework for European cooperation in the youth field (2010-2018) OJ C 311, 19.12.2009

<sup>2</sup> OJ C 319/8, 13.12.2008

mechanisms<sup>3</sup> can be optimised if more focused. The most influential tools to implement the strategy have been the structured dialogue, the mobilisation of EU funds, mutual learning and knowledge building. However, the strategy did not fully succeed in creating an integrated approach to young people at EU level and in reaching out to young people across the socio-economic spectrum. In terms of **efficiency**, results were delivered at a comparatively low cost. Nevertheless, there is room for a greater involvement of national players (youth organisations, ministries, etc.), whose limited resources prevent them from taking full advantage of EU cooperation opportunities; the monitoring framework did not fully capture the achievements of the EU cooperation and evaluate its impacts, and could be enhanced. **Sustainability** of the strategy was positively viewed; stakeholders show continued willingness to participate in EU youth cooperation. This also applies to their involvement in cross-border volunteering opportunities.

The findings of this evaluation will feed the preparatory work for EU youth policy cooperation after 2018.

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<sup>3</sup> To be remedied with an online compendium on national youth policies to be launched end 2017.