

EUROPEAN YOUTH WEEK

The European Union Programmes Agency is happy to announce the 9th edition of the European Youth Week!

Hundreds of events will be taking place across Europe to touch upon various political issues and emphasize the EU's role and its programmes in them, as follows:

- **Political discussions with young people** on their drive to engage in democracy in all its facets. This aims to challenge young people to express themselves about topics such as community involvement, fake news or media literacy and share their preferred forms of participation. European Youth Week 2019 will happen just before the European elections, so it can **amplify the Commission's and European Parliament's campaign messages on the importance of voting.**
- **Show the added value of EU programmes** for youth, namely Erasmus+ and the European Solidarity Corps, in empowering young people to participate in a European-wide perspective
- **Consider the potential of the new EU Youth Dialogue** that will be launched as part of the new EU Youth Strategy and brainstorm about the new youth participation projects proposed under the future Erasmus programme.
- Mobilise young people in a capacity of **'ambassadors'** for our programmes and actions such as the European Solidarity Corps alumni network and Discover EU travellers.

Date:

The dates are set: **29 April - 5 May 2019.**

Topic:

The theme of EYW 2019 is **Democracy and me.**

"**Democracy and me**" is about taking the opportunity for your people to be involved in the decision-making process for policies that affect everyone. Voting in elections (formal democracy), either national or European, is the most important expression of democratic participation, but not the only one. What happens between elections is equally important for a democracy to thrive: getting engaged in voluntary work, talking to policy-makers, protesting in front of a government building or boycotting something (democracy by 'doing'). In addition,

European Union Programmes Agency,
ex-Royal Navy Military Hospital,
Triq l-Imtarfa, L-Imtarfa, MTF1140,
+356 2558 6125
Sukran.delan-calleja@gov.mt & david.f.pace@gov.mt



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access to new forms of communication goes hand in hand with new forms of sharing opinions in the democratic arena.

The European Youth Week 2019 will showcase easy-to-grasp examples from Erasmus+ and the European Solidarity Corps and beyond, such as "Jack and democracy" or "Jane and participation" to educate and inspire young people about what democracy means and how one can participate, even through simple acts of writing a letter or walking the neighbor's dog.

Special attention will be devoted to reaching out to **unaffiliated young people** and to those with **fewer opportunities**.

European Youth Week represents major communication opportunities, through press materials and online promotion, including by rallying influencers (such as **Youtubers** or **Instagram personalities**) during the Week. Key messages and stories will be produced ahead of the week, along with a dedicated website on the European Youth Portal.

Events:

The organizations are invited to organise events that are relevant to the topic and ensure participation of young people, policy-makers, other youth organizations, public authorities, youth workers and other youth stakeholders.

The format of events can vary from high-level political discussions, speed dating with decision-makers or simulation games on democracy to fairs, competitions, debates, networking events, exhibitions, cultural events, etc.

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