



The importance of strengthening, empowering, and including youth participation in the European Union

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Introduction

I represent not just myself, but the voice and hopes of my generation.
The extraordinary lies in the spirit of youth—our dreams and courage to speak up.

Military school taught me discipline, but also that hope gives meaning.

My three hopes:

- 1. Youth are not only the future, but the present.*
- 2. Every young person carries leadership potential.*
- 3. Europe is listening.*



Picture 1:
National Military High School
Stefan cel Mare



Picture 2: Parade

From ashes to dreams

The Formation of Europe and Robert Schuman's Role

- After World War II, European states sought solutions to ensure peace and economic cooperation.
- On May 9, 1950, Robert Schuman, France's Foreign Minister, presented the Schuman Declaration, proposing the pooling of coal and steel production.
- This initiative led to the creation of the European Coal and Steel Community (1951), the first step towards European integration.
- Robert Schuman is considered a “founding father of a united Europe”, and May 9 is celebrated as Europe Day.



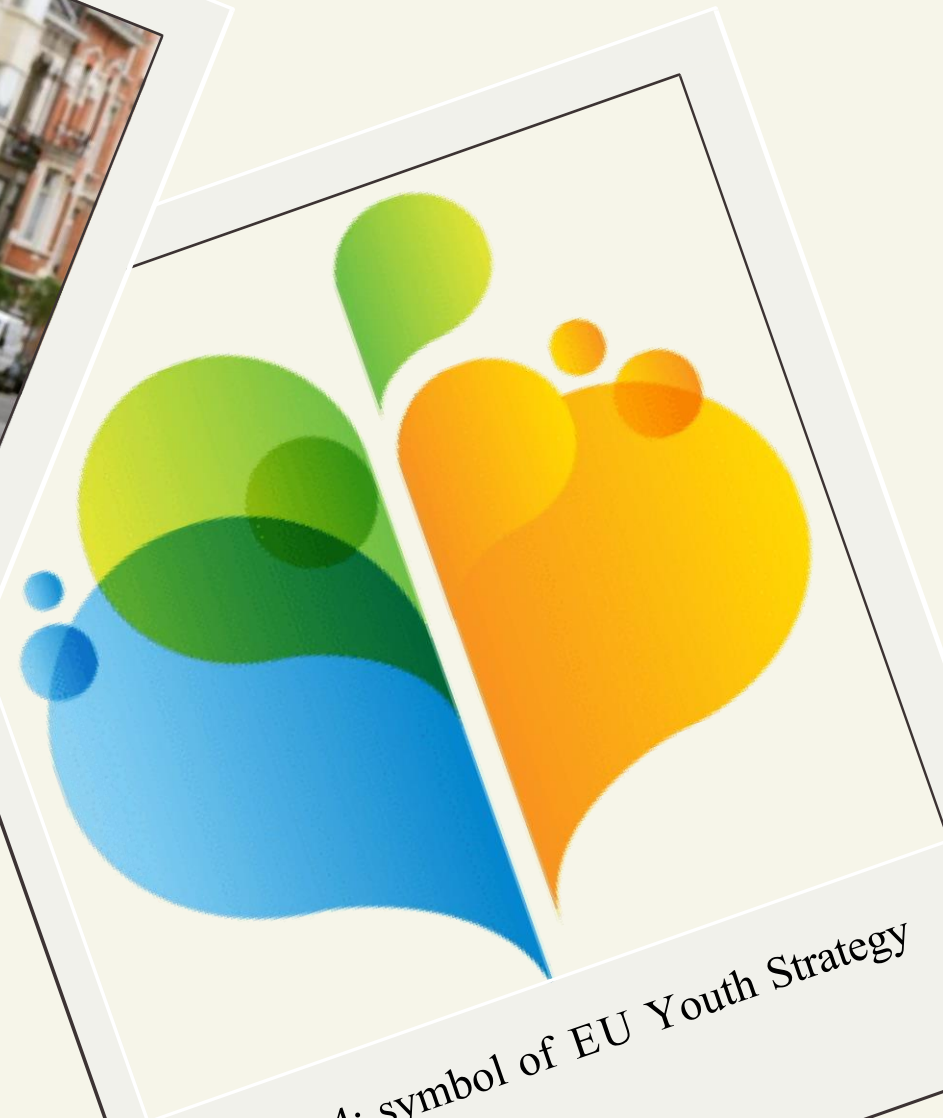
The Europe that trusts its youth

- Empowerment may sometimes sound like a distant concept, yet it becomes essential when it comes to young people.
- Sana Afouaiz founded the platform Youth Voice with the purpose of breaking down stereotypes and offering support through texts and posts.
- Today's youth must have the chance to take part in political dialogue, because it is their future at stake and they need to be involved in shaping it.

The Europe that trusts its youth



Picture 3: Sana Afouiaz



Picture 4: symbol of EU Youth Strategy

What could have driven Sana to entrust leadership to unconventional young people? The answer is trust. True leaders of yesterday succeeded because of the faith and affinities they developed on their way to success.

Empowering a young person to speak before the European Union means giving them the wings they need at that very moment.

Beyond borders: youth as guardians of peace



Youth
Empowerment
Questions
Legislation
Innovation

A global responsibility

- Young people can claim their place, but they aren't often encouraged to ask questions.
- In countries like Mali, youth outnumber elders and could transform their communities instead of migrating.
- Teachers and mentors can guide them to speak up and take action.



A generation between discipline and creativity

- “Suspending migration” can become reality if opportunities exist locally.
- NGOs like Youth 4 Global Goals and Plan International help, but more support is needed.
- Even youth in difficult situations can express ideas and influence the world.



Conclusion

- Throughout my research, I discovered that all kinds of voices—soft, high-pitched, or deep—can drive change.
- I chose to express my personal thoughts and feelings, not just facts.
- Young people, including myself, can create meaningful change, starting from within.
- The goal is to bring the European spirit to countries facing despair and population loss.





Thank you for your attention!