

YOUTH MAINSTREAMING, YOUTH IMPACT AND YOUTH CHECKS

Link: <https://national-policies.eacea.ec.europa.eu/youthwiki/publications/youth-mainstreaming-youth-impact-assessment-and-youth-checks>

Short link: <https://europa.eu/!7Dc8TT>

Publication date: 11 July

Text for Newsletter

The report “Youth mainstreaming, youth impact assessment and youth checks” has just been released. It analyses youth mainstreaming practices in 33 European countries, with a focus on youth regulatory impact assessment (RIA) instruments in four EU Member States: Belgium (the Flemish Community), Germany, France and Austria. In the absence of a common term used to designate such instruments, the paper refers to them as “youth checks”.

This paper builds on the achievements of the Year of Youth. The European Commission has outlined 60 actions to further its commitment to fostering young people's participation and engagement. To support this, it has promoted youth mainstreaming across various policy fields relevant to young people. One of these actions involves creating an analytical overview of national experiences with youth mainstreaming.

Youth checks are vital tools for prioritizing youth policies and incorporating a youth perspective into policymaking. This comparative analysis of the features and processes of the youth checks is a first attempt at delineating the workings of these instruments, highlighting their differences and similarities and contributing to the exchange of best practices among countries.

The analysis is based on first-hand qualitative information collected by the national correspondents of the Youth Wiki network, and through interviews with representatives of national public administrations. The Youth Wiki is an online platform presenting information on European countries' youth policies. It supports evidence-based European cooperation in the field of Youth by providing information on national policies in support of young people.

Website text

Following up on the achievements of the Year of Youth, the report analyses youth mainstreaming practices in 33 European countries, with a focus on youth regulatory impact assessment (RIA) instruments in four EU Member States: Belgium (the Flemish Community), Germany, France and Austria. In the absence of a common term used to designate such instruments, the paper refers to them as ‘youth checks’.

This comparative analysis of the youth checks is a first attempt at delineating the workings of these instruments, highlighting their differences and similarities, and contributing to the exchange of best practices among countries and peer learning. The paper consists of five sections.

The paper consists of five sections. The first one introduces the concepts of youth mainstreaming and youth impact assessment (YIA). The paper then proceeds to describe the instruments of YIA at the EU level, with a particular focus on the Commission's better regulation agenda. This is followed by an overview of the YIA practices across European countries. Youth checks' features are deeply described in the third section. Procedures in place in each of the four Member States are also explained in detail and analysed in a comparative perspective. The fifth and last section concludes with an assessment of the results of the youth checks in terms of the consequences for draft legislation.

Social media text

1. New #YouthWiki report out!

We are excited to announce that the report *"Youth mainstreaming, youth impact assessment and youth checks"* has just been published!

Building on the Year of Youth, the European Commission decided to boost its commitment to fostering young people's participation and engagement :) That is why, it has promoted youth mainstreaming across various policy fields relevant to #youngpeople. But what are the "youth checks"?

They are vital tools for prioritizing youth policies and incorporating a youth perspective into policymaking. Our report highlights different youth impact assessment tools and compares the youth checks where they exist.

Check it out and download it for free: <https://europa.eu/!7Dc8TT>

2. The latest #YouthWiki report "Youth mainstreaming, youth impact assessment and youth checks is out"!

Discover more about different way of incorporating young people perspective in the policy making process!

You will find an in-depth description of the features and processes of the youth checks in the Flemish Community of Belgium, as well as in Germany, France and Austria.

There you go! <https://europa.eu/!7Dc8TT>

3. Do you know how policies can benefit from the integration of a #youth perspective?

The latest #YouthWiki report “Youth mainstreaming, youth impact assessment and youth checks” offers a comparative analysis of the features and processes of the youth checks. Youth checks are essential tools for incorporating a youth perspective into policymaking. This is a first exciting attempt at delineating the workings of these instruments, highlighting their differences and similarities and contributing to the exchange of best practices among countries.

Because #youngpeople’s voice matters!

Learn more about the youth checks here: <https://europa.eu/!7Dc8TT>

4. Are you interested in learning how youth checks function across Europe?

Check out the latest #YouthWiki report! You'll find that a common practice among countries is applying youth checks during the ex-ante stage of policymaking and the subsequent drafting stage. This approach helps mitigate any potentially negative consequences of the legislation for #youngpeople.

Discover more about it: <https://europa.eu/!7Dc8TT>

5. Do you know where youth checks are implemented?

The report “Youth mainstreaming, youth impact assessment and youth checks” analyses youth mainstreaming practices in 33 European countries, with a focus on youth regulatory impact assessment instruments in the Flemish Community of Belgium, Germany, France and Austria.

Have a look: <https://europa.eu/!7Dc8TT>

Short Article

The Youth Wiki network has published the comparative report on “Youth mainstreaming, youth impact assessment and youth checks”. It analyses youth mainstreaming practices in 33 European countries, with a focus on youth regulatory impact assessment (RIA) instruments in four EU Member States: Belgium (the Flemish Community), Germany, France and Austria. In the absence of a common term used to designate such instruments, the paper refers to them as ‘youth checks’.

Youth checks are vital tools for prioritizing youth policies and incorporating a youth perspective into policymaking. They are important in two main respects. Firstly, the comprehensiveness of policies can be fostered by considering aspects relating to young people as an important constituent of society. Addressing potential challenges before application can make policies more effective in their impact. Secondly, support from stakeholders can increase. Including a youth perspective can enhance the potential of

legislation to represent the interests of a significant part of society and to avoid negative effects of policy measures.

This paper builds on the achievements of the Year of Youth and on the European Commission's decision to outline 60 actions to reinforce its commitment to fostering young people's participation and engagement.

The comparative analysis of the youth checks in the above-mentioned countries illustrates their main features across four perspectives: scope, methodologies, procedures, and results. It investigates the workings of these instruments, while also contributing to the exchange of best practices among countries and peer-learning.

The report is based on first-hand qualitative information collected by the national correspondents of the Youth Wiki network in March 2023, and through interviews with representatives of national public administrations.

Main findings for the press

CONTEXT

This comparative paper analyses youth mainstreaming practices in 33 European countries, with a focus on youth regulatory impact assessment (RIA) instruments in four EU Member States: Belgium (the Flemish Community), Germany, France and Austria. In the absence of a common term used to designate such instruments, the paper refers to them as 'youth checks'.

Youth checks are vital tools for prioritizing youth policies and incorporating a youth perspective into policymaking. This comparative analysis of the features and processes of the youth checks is a first attempt at delineating the workings of these instruments, highlighting their differences and similarities and contributing to the exchange of best practices among countries.

Following up on the Year of Youth, the European Commission has outlined 60 actions to further its commitment to fostering young people's participation and engagement. To support this, it has promoted youth mainstreaming across various policy fields relevant to young people.

This analysis is based on evidence provided by the [Youth Wiki network](#).

KEY ELEMENTS

- By "Youth mainstreaming" the authors intend the integration of a youth perspective into the preparation and design of policies that affect young people.

- This paper analyses youth mainstreaming practices in 33 European countries, with a focus on youth regulatory impact assessment instruments in the Flemish Community of Belgium, Germany, France and Austria. The comparison of these four experiences allows the authors to identify common general patterns, along with some differences. Analysis looks at such patterns from four perspectives: scope, methodology, procedures and use of the result. Some non-exhaustive examples of these patterns in relation with each perspective are given below:
 1. *In terms of **scope**, the identification of the impact of legislation on young people takes into consideration a vast number of aspects relating to young people's lives. In the Flemish Community of Belgium, all dimensions pertaining to the lives of young people are considered. In the other countries analysed, the effects of legislation usually revolve around five main areas: health, care and well-being, autonomy, equity and non-discrimination. The German youth check covers even a wider scope of youth-related dimensions using an assessment chart that also consists of six areas of life: family, leisure, education and work, the environment and health, politics and society, and the digital world.*
 2. *In terms of **Methodology**: In all countries under consideration, the assessment of the consequences of legislation for young people is based on the collection of evidence, in the form of both qualitative and quantitative information. In Germany, when novel aspects are regulated, evidence can be collected on an ad hoc basis (e.g. through surveys and stakeholder consultations).*
 3. *In terms of **procedures**: In all countries, youth checks are conducted during the preliminary assessment of future legislation (i.e. the ex ante stage) and during the successive drafting stage. The role of the youth check is therefore to provide information on the likely impact of the new legislation on young people, and to attract the attention of the legislator to youth interests. In all countries, young people are not systematically involved in the workings of youth checks. However, in the Flemish Community of Belgium, the Youth Council can be informally involved in the drafting stage of the impact study of new legislation directly affecting the interests of children and youth (JoKer). In Germany, young people are included in the youth checks' periodic assessment. Furthermore, in some cases, young people can be invited to give their perspective on the potential effects of a specific and relevant piece of planned legislation.*
 4. *In terms of results, in all countries, one essential aim of the youth checks is to highlight any potential negative effects of draft legislation on young people. This is instrumental*

for the formulation of mitigating measures. This approach allows to better take into account the needs of young people.

- Policies can benefit from the inclusion of youth impact assessments processes and youth checks in two main respects. Firstly, the comprehensiveness of policies can be fostered by considering aspects relating to young people as an important constituent of society. Addressing potential challenges before application can make policies more effective in their impact and implementation. Secondly, support from stakeholders can increase. Including a youth perspective can enhance the potential of legislation to represent the interests of a significant part of society, to make adjustments that avoid negative effects and to reinforce the representativity and legitimacy of policy measures.
- Youth impact assessments processes and youth checks can also enrich the scope and content of youth policy by deepening the knowledge of the effects of regulations on aspects of young people's lives that could be otherwise overlooked. They can be considered mechanisms for capacity building and civic education. They reveal the dynamics of policymaking, the main actors involved and the institutional processes, and so reinforce young people's knowledge of political decision-making.