

Europe Youth Group



Generation Connect
Europe Youth Group





EUROPE YOUTH GROUP





EUROPE YOUTH GROUP



Declaration on Regional Priorities for Europe Towards 2025

Generation Connect - Europe Youth Group Declaration on Regional Priorities for Europe Towards 2025

Preamble

We, the Generation Connect - Europe Youth Group, assembled in bringing key objectives to the attention of the ITU stakeholders, providing a cohesive view of the present and offering solutions for the future.

Through digitalisation the role of the youth is becoming increasingly important, as the young generations become the drivers of social change. In accordance with the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the UN World Summit of Information Society (WSIS) outcomes, and the ITU Connect 2030 Agenda, we recognise the challenges and opportunities of this century in the context of Europe region, we believe special attention should be given to five thematic priorities, including capacity development, policy and regulatory, cybersecurity, environment, and digital inclusion. In addition, we also recognise the importance of other thematic priorities as listed below in the Declaration.

From a capacity development perspective, we are anxious about the growing digital skills gap and educational resource inequalities, particularly for those entering the job market. Many jobs created by digital markets involve advanced skills, and those who fears over the erosion of traditional career paths. Despite this, various working spaces and digital entrepreneurship are creating opportunities. Tech-driven entrepreneurs such as community-led learning and massive online courses allow like-minded people to self-organise and innovate. More generally, we support the development of a greater number of stakeholders in digital development, especially in developing digital education curricula to support digital literacy.

Given that people tend to be sceptical towards digital services, policy and regulatory frameworks provide the opportunity to overcome such distrust. Engaging a diverse range of stakeholders, including the youth, will lead to the creation of knowledge networks and greater collaboration in the future. A human-centric approach needs to be anchored in law, in order to raise trust in emerging technologies. Although policies are potentially useful bridges between innovation and security, solutions are often difficult to understand, especially for those who do not work with legal documents on a daily basis. We are convinced that a more accessible language is needed to communicate policies in an effective way and to reach the youth.

Equipped with such knowledge, young people are prepared to make their voices heard. Year after year, youth activists lobby world leaders to develop sustainable policies and

Emerging technologies offer tremendous potential across Europe. However, they have an uneven impact on society. The digital divide of different communities, we even groups and other minorities. Without an in-depth social and political context, it is a tremendous challenge that communities a crucial challenge that is effective use of digital platforms by

to connect young people with the motivation in informal

to be adapted to be made more accessible to those who are auditory-impaired. This is a challenge for the current labour

ing marketing campaigns targeting young people towards the

adoption of technological community-led learning, as to start-ups.

in creating cooperative up action plans with needed to succeed in traditional sectors.

the youth. Unfortunately, there are only a few platforms that allow their voices heard. The involvement of the youth regarding the impact that policies have on different communities than other groups is not sufficient. Furthermore, regulations that exist, because they are not understood. However, ICT and digital, and for this reason it is a challenge for the current labour

to connect young people with the motivation in informal

to be adapted to be made more accessible to those who are auditory-impaired. This is a challenge for the current labour

ing marketing campaigns targeting young people towards the

adoption of technological community-led learning, as to start-ups.

in creating cooperative up action plans with needed to succeed in traditional sectors.

relationships, memories, and lives, that are used by cybercriminals to spread hate speech and disinformation. We will continue to work with our stakeholders to ensure that our systems are secure and resilient.

skills and knowledge among young people is a challenge. In this context, the need to promote digital literacy is a challenge for the current labour

to connect young people with the motivation in informal

to be adapted to be made more accessible to those who are auditory-impaired. This is a challenge for the current labour

ing marketing campaigns targeting young people towards the

adoption of technological community-led learning, as to start-ups.

in creating cooperative up action plans with needed to succeed in traditional sectors.

relationships, memories, and lives, that are used by cybercriminals to spread hate speech and disinformation. We will continue to work with our stakeholders to ensure that our systems are secure and resilient.

skills and knowledge among young people is a challenge. In this context, the need to promote digital literacy is a challenge for the current labour

to connect young people with the motivation in informal

to be adapted to be made more accessible to those who are auditory-impaired. This is a challenge for the current labour

ing marketing campaigns targeting young people towards the

adoption of technological community-led learning, as to start-ups.

in creating cooperative up action plans with needed to succeed in traditional sectors.

relationships, memories, and lives, that are used by cybercriminals to spread hate speech and disinformation. We will continue to work with our stakeholders to ensure that our systems are secure and resilient.

skills and knowledge among young people is a challenge. In this context, the need to promote digital literacy is a challenge for the current labour

to connect young people with the motivation in informal

to be adapted to be made more accessible to those who are auditory-impaired. This is a challenge for the current labour

ing marketing campaigns targeting young people towards the

adoption of technological community-led learning, as to start-ups.

in creating cooperative up action plans with needed to succeed in traditional sectors.



EUROPE YOUTH GROUP



Preamble

- Through digitalisation the role of the youth is becoming increasingly important.
- We recognise the strategic role of meaningful connectivity for sustainable development.
- Special attention should be given to five thematic priorities: capacity development, policy and regulation, cybersecurity, environment, and digital inclusion.



EUROPE YOUTH GROUP



1. Capacity Development

- Increasing digital literacy among youth through high quality free online courses.
- Recognising the increasing importance of digital skills shortage, career and job related challenges.
- Increasing the outreach for the existing resources of ITU.



EUROPE YOUTH GROUP



2. Policy and Regulation

- Increasing the **involvement** of youth in the regulatory process.
- Additional focus on the **youth dimension** in the **content** of policies and regulations.
- Ensuring improved **communication** towards the youth regarding policies and regulations.



EUROPE YOUTH GROUP



3. Cybersecurity

- Raise awareness and promote media literacy on cybersecurity to educate the youth on online safety to create a secure online environment.
- Increase cybersecurity skills among young people for their future professional development and ensure a larger representation of women in the field.
- Establish common cybersecurity capacity-building standards for European countries with cross-sectoral cybersecurity skills curriculum guidelines.



EUROPE YOUTH GROUP



4. Environment

- We recommend collaboration with youth to leverage ICT to **reduce the ecological footprint of industries and its own**. A **circular economy** including ICT industries and devices is crucially needed.
- We encourage governments to **create professional roles, educational paths, and grants for startups and initiatives** for young people to specifically support the **sustainable development** through technology.



EUROPE YOUTH GROUP



5. Digital Inclusion

- To guarantee **inclusive digital technology design for all**, particularly for those **with specific needs**, for example: for persons with **disabilities**, individuals **with lower digital skills**, and **non-English speakers**.
- To **subsidise the cost of internet connectivity** for low-income households and provide **free Internet in public places** to promote equality and affordability of access to digital services.
- To ensure **high speed connectivity for all educational institutions**, such as schools and libraries, and **provide greater access to digital services**, particularly among youth.



EUROPE YOUTH GROUP



Other BDT Thematic Priorities

- We propose that all European countries provide easy-access, protected **digital citizen services**.
- Establish programmes for young graduates to **develop ICT-based aid for emergency situations**.
- **Start-up centres** to encourage young people to explore digital entrepreneurship opportunities.
- Collect new data on how youth access and interact with ICTs, to allow **better digital policies and education strategies**.
- Provide job opportunities for the youth in the field of digital services and applications.



EUROPE YOUTH GROUP



#makeIThappen