



A guide to applying the 'EU Youth Test' at the EESC: For EESC members

➤ What is the 'EU Youth Test' at the EESC?

In September 2022, the EESC adopted an opinion on [the EU Youth Test \(SOC/728\)](#) which is a tool designed to strengthen youth participation and youth mainstreaming in policymaking based on consultation, impact assessment and mitigation measures. At the EESC, this means for example involving youth representatives in the opinion-making process. In April 2024, the EESC bureau approved a methodology drafted by the [EESC Youth Group](#) for applying the 'EU Youth Test' at the EESC.

➤ How many opinions will the 'EU Youth Test' be applied to?

Each section/CCMI bureau can select between 1 to 5 opinions per year to apply the 'EU Youth Test'. A derogation can be requested to the EESC bureau.

➤ How are youth representatives selected?

An application form can be found on the [EESC youth engagement webpage](#) for youth organisations to apply to take part in the 'EU Youth Test' at the EESC. A list of interested youth organisations will be provided to each section/CCMI as a result of this application form. ***Please help spread the word!***

Each section/CCMI will send their list of new opinions to the selected youth organisations every month. These youth organisations should indicate which opinions they are interested in working on. After receiving this, the section/CCMI bureau will decide whether they will apply the 'EU Youth Test' and to what opinions.

When an opinion is selected by the section/CCMI bureau for the 'EU Youth Test', the interested youth organisations must appoint one person to represent all of them at the EESC, i.e. a youth representative.

➤ What is the role of a youth representative?

- Represent all interested youth organisations.
- Actively participate in all study group meetings of the selected opinion by taking part in the debates with the study group members and discussing the potential impact of the topic of the opinion on young people, and any eventual mitigation measures.
- Provide written contributions.
- Potentially take part in follow-up activities of the selected opinion.

➤ What should I do as an EESC member during the study group meetings?

- Include the youth representative in all discussions.
- Reflect together with the youth representative on the possible impact on youth of the topic of the opinion. To consider:
 - The checklist on the next page could be used for this discussion.
 - The European Commission may have carried out an impact analysis through their 'Youth Check'.
- Reflect together with the youth representative and identify possible mitigation measures to offset negative impacts (clear recommendations for changes to mitigate that potential negative impact), if any.
- You will be asked to fill out a feedback form on their experience of the 'EU Youth Test' at the EESC. The information gathered will be reviewed by the EESC Youth Group to improve the process.

Guiding questions to reflect on with the youth representative:

Topic	Would the proposal have a significant impact on future generations and ...
Sustainability	<p>... young people's opportunities to contribute to and benefit from the green transition and the transition to sustainable production and consumption?</p> <p>... young people's right to live on a healthy planet where ecosystems and the environment thrive?</p> <p>... the balance between protection of the environment, economic prosperity and social inclusiveness in youth-related policies?</p>
Wellbeing	<p>... young people's physical and mental health?</p> <p>... young people's access to health care?</p> <p>... young people's levels of protection from violence, abuse and discrimination, especially those for young people from disadvantaged backgrounds and minority groups and for young people with disabilities?</p>
Autonomy and transition to independence	<p>... young people's access to affordable and decent housing?</p> <p>... young people's mobility?</p> <p>... young people's access to finances?</p> <p>... support for young people starting a business?</p> <p>... young people's ability to start – and support – a family?</p>
Labour market and social protection	<p>... young people's access to quality jobs and decent salary?</p> <p>... young people's access to social protection, health and safety at work?</p> <p>... young people exposure to employment uncertainty?</p>
Digital world	<p>... young people's access to online media and quality information?</p> <p>... young people's safety and autonomy online?</p> <p>... young people in the digital transition?</p>
Democratic life and civic involvement	<p>... young people's freedom of assembly and association and/or their freedom of expression?</p> <p>... young people's opportunities to participate in political and democratic life at a local, national, EU and/or international level?</p>
Education and civic space	<p>... young people's access to quality education and/or vocational training, upskilling and/or reskilling?</p> <p>... young people's learning opportunities outside school or higher education, such as through leisure time activities, youth clubs, youth work, volunteering and/or traineeships?</p> <p>... young people's mobility and cooperation opportunities at EU and/or international level?</p> <p>... funding and functioning of youth organisations?</p>