POLICY Letter

Youth Strategy Realignment in the EU after 2019
Ideas from Bavaria

On March 5th 2018, as part of the project “Young in Bavaria - Fit for Europe?!” a group discussion workshop was held at the Old Town Hall in Munich. More than 80 young participants from all across Bavaria discussed their ideas and aspirations for the EU -Youth Strategy realignment and presented their findings to public and press. The event was covered by the Süddeutsche Zeitung.

For further information, please see the link below:

Proposals for a future youth policy agenda:

- **EU youth politics** should not only focus on promoting and funding projects dealing with European issues, but also ensure that young Europeans are given the chance to take an active part in the European decision-making at local, national and global levels.
- **Voluntary commitment** is of great importance in the European society. The EU should give young volunteers more credit for their work by creating a European ID for voluntary commitment. The ID could for instance be useful to demonstrate social competences when applying for a job.
- **Environment and Sustainability** are priorities for the young people. They demand sustainable products and European Seal of quality for consumer protection in order to track the food production process (e.g. by implementing a traffic light food labelling system).
- The EU should increase education, training and job options for young people in the European Union. European Youth Parliaments should play a bigger role in the political decision-making process. Young Europeans demand a European minimum wage and advice the EU to support the implementation of apprenticeship programs / the dual education system throughout the European Union following the German example.
- **Digital competences** provide young people with the necessary knowledge to meet the requirements of the job market. To create ideal market conditions the EU should fund and promote rising European entrepreneurs to increase the amount of IT-Start-Ups in the Union. In the age of digital transformation progress in the realm of cyber security is necessary.
- **The EU - united in diversity:** Minorities, people with disabilities or simply dissidents should have the same opportunities to access the job market. To meet the challenges of a globalized world school exchange programs play a major role in promoting the intercultural understanding not only between EU member states, but on an international basis.
• **A European identity** will only emerge out of a people-to-people connection. Thus providing young people with language, communication and culture training plays an essential role in bringing European citizens closer together. Young people need to be given the opportunity to reach out to peers from all over Europe.

• In order to support the **sense of European unity**, young people need more cultural exchange and more cultural education. One prerequisite – also provided by EU-standards - for young people should be the ability to communicate at least in English.