



Dear Beneficiaries,

Last September, the President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, announced that 2022 would be the **European Year of Youth (EYY)**. This is the perfect time for the Erasmus+/European Solidarity Corps family in Ireland to put the spotlight on what it has already achieved when it comes to involving young people.

It is also an occasion to take stock with young people on how they see their place in the future, and what steps we should take together to make youth engagement a permanent feature of our programmes.

Firstly, we would like to ask you to think about how you could give even more opportunities to young people, under the umbrella of the European Year of Youth. Both the budget of [Erasmus+](#) and the [European Solidarity Corps](#) have been reinforced for this celebratory year, which means that this year, young people will have even more opportunities than ever to be part of an active and engaged community. They can explore a [Youth Participation activity](#) or a [Solidarity Project](#) for example.

Secondly, we encourage you to consider how you can make sure young people are represented in your projects in a sustainable and meaningful manner, including through financial support for projects promoted by young people.

All this will require that we all play our role in communicating and disseminating a better understanding of the various opportunities available to young people at EU, national, regional or local level.

To this end, the European Commission has launched a dedicated [European Year of Youth section](#) on the [European Youth Portal](#), and this will remain the main channel of communication at EU level. It will house:

- an activities' map
- a youth policy section
- a section on news and stories on how the European Commission hopes to work with young people in the future.

This is the best place to visit to stay informed about everything happening across Europe for Youth in 2022. You can filter by topic, country and dates.

A button on the portal has been made available so that you can upload organised youth activities and events by yourself. We in Léargas will act as a validator of these activities and once validated they will appear on the portal. We encourage you to upload, promote and get inspired by youth activities. If you have any queries, you can reach out to our dedicated [European Year of Youth team](#).

The official logo of the Year is also available in all European languages and can now be downloaded from the [European Commission website](#). We encourage you to use it for youth activities and communication actions that contribute to the European Year of Youth objectives and its spirit.

There is also an official hashtag **#EuropeanYearOfYouth** that we encourage you to use too. The European Commission is working also on a visual identity that will be rolled out towards March/April.

Let me assure you that we will be making every effort to work with you to make this a successful and memorable European Year of Youth.

I certainly very much look forward to seeing youth initiatives being showcased across the EU and I count on you all to help us develop a strong national narrative to inspire the new generation of Europeans.

Yours sincerely,



Lorraine Gilligan

Executive Director, Léargas