

Migrant and Refugee Youth Communication and advocacy for equity and inclusion

International Youth Network Conference Outcome on Sustainability of the Network for Recommendations Strand 2

MYCOMM ERASMUS+ YOUTH 2022 TOG PAPER

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JEF Europe

Outcome Paper on the Sustainability of the International Youth Network for Migrant and Refugee Inclusion

Executive Summary

The International Youth Network Conference of the MyCOMM project has highlighted the need for promoting the inclusion of migrant and refugee youth across Europe. Ensuring the long-term sustainability of this network is essential for maintaining its impact on policy advocacy, capacity building, and youth empowerment. This outcome paper presents key recommendations to secure the network's sustainability across structural, financial, capacity-building, advocacy, and digital domains

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This document is the result of the discussions of the International Youth Network Conference of the MyCOMM project held in hybrid format in the JEF Europe Headquarters in Brussels, November 1st-2nd, 2024. JEF Europe, GIE and CARDET led the Strand 2 ("*Network added value and sustainability*") of the agenda. Divided into hybrid groups, the participants proposed the following <u>Key Recommendations for Sustainability</u> to ensure the longevity and effectiveness of the network:

a) Strengthening Organizational Structures

- Establish a formalized governance framework with designated leadership roles and decision-making processes.
- Develop a central secretariat to oversee coordination and network expansion.
- Implement a structured membership model to maintain consistent engagement from youth organizations across Europe.

b) Securing Financial Sustainability

- Diversify funding streams through EU grants, public-private partnerships, and membership contributions.
- Develop a comprehensive financial sustainability strategy, incorporating crowdfunding campaigns and sponsorships.
- Establish an endowment fund to provide long-term financial stability.

c) Capacity Building and Knowledge Sharing

· Conduct periodic training sessions on advocacy, social media strategies, and





audiovisual storytelling.

- Develop an open-source knowledge hub containing best practices, legal frameworks, and policy resources.
- Foster peer-to-peer mentorship programs to empower young leaders within the network.

d) Enhancing Advocacy and Policy Influence

- Strengthen engagement with EU institutions, policymakers, and international organizations to shape migration policies.
- Publish periodic policy briefs, reports, and research to highlight challenges and propose solutions.
- Establish an annual forum for direct dialogue between young migrants and refugee advocates and decision-makers.

e) Expanding Digital and Media Presence

- Strengthen the network's digital presence with an interactive website and online advocacy tools.
- Increase audiovisual storytelling to amplify personal narratives and counter misinformation on migration.
- Utilize social media and digital platforms to engage a broader audience and foster inclusive dialogue.







From the discussions, participants also emphasized the <u>Best Practices from the MYCOMM Project</u>, that can enhance the sustainability of the network, such as:

- Mapping youth organizations across Europe to foster strategic partnerships.
- Organizing collaborative "Makeathons" to create advocacy content and solutions.
- Integrating sustainability into organizational policies, including eco-friendly event planning and ethical funding approaches.

The need to Strengthening Partnerships and Collaboration has also been discussed, with the understanding that it is necessary to:

- Expand collaboration with civil society organizations, academic institutions, and private sector partners.
- Create regional hubs within the network to facilitate localized advocacy and program implementation.
- Align with EU-funded projects to enhance migrant and refugee inclusion efforts.

In the end, the participants reached a consensus Conclusion:

Ensuring the sustainability of the International Youth Network is critical to maintaining its role in shaping migration policies and fostering social inclusion. By implementing these recommendations, the network can build resilience, secure financial independence, and maximize its advocacy impact. The commitment of VYRE, JEF Europe, and other stakeholders remains key to achieving this vision.









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