

*The European Confederation of Independent Trade Unions (CESI) is a confederation of more than 40 national and European trade union organisations from over 20 European countries, with a total of more than 5 million individual members. Founded in 1990 and a European sectoral social partner, CESI advocates improved employment conditions for workers in Europe and a strong social dimension in the EU. Most of CESI's affiliates are employed in the different fields of the European, national, regional and local public services, as well as in privatised services of general interest. CESI also represents private sector unions. Founded in 2013, CESI Youth brings together youth trade unionists within CESI.*

The European Year of Youth 2022 has been above all a response by the European Commission to the manifold adverse impacts that the Covid pandemic has had on young people across their social and working lives.

As ways to mitigate the challenges brought by social and economic isolation as a result of the pandemic, but also to address broader issues for young people such as widespread precarious or zero employment and increasing costs of living, CESI Youth has for long been advocating in favour

- of better approaches to 'school-to-work' transitions,
- ways to relief some of the financial burden for young people during their time of education and training,
- improved mental health and self-actualisation at the workplace,
- a recognised right to telework and a right to disconnect including for young workers.

In this sense CESI Youth welcomed the European Year of Youth as a way to promote young people's rights, interests and aspirations.

According to CESI Youth, **the European Year of Youth was an important initiative during times of political, social, and economic changes that have been taking place and have affected the (working) lives of young persons profoundly**. It encouraged young people to play an active role in shaping their own future and that of their communities, as well as to promote a sense of European identity and citizenship.

This was reflected in Decision (EU) 2021/2316<sup>1</sup> which formalised the European Year of Youth and which specified that the European Commission was supposed to enable youth organisations “to assist in co-creating and implementing the European Year” in including by means of joint meetings with representatives.

Indeed, throughout 2022, a variety of events, initiatives, and activities were organised across Europe to promote the European Year of Youth. These included conferences, debates, cultural events, youth exchanges, and information campaigns, as well as online resources and tools designed to support the participation and engagement of young people.

However, **despite greater attention given to youth policies in 2022, CESI Youth believes that the European Year of Youth lacked an adequate and inclusive monitoring mechanism.**

Moreover, according to CESI Youth, **the European Year of Youth must imperatively be followed by the introduction of a Youth Test**<sup>2</sup> – an impact assessment tool to ensure that young people are considered when new EU laws are made – as proposed by the European Youth Forum (EYF) and endorsed by the European Parliament in its resolution of November 24 2022 on the European Year of Youth 2022 legacy<sup>3</sup>.

CESI Youth supports such Youth Tests for any new EU policies and soft law measures as a sound way to anticipate ex-ante and measure ex-post impacts of policies on young people, in order to showcase, at the end, what real changes were achieved.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32021D2316&from=EN>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.youthforum.org/topics/eu-youth-test>

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-9-2022-0424\\_EN.html](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-9-2022-0424_EN.html)