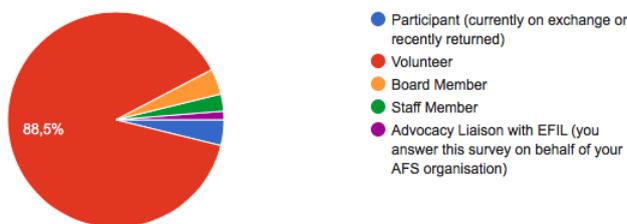


EU Structured dialogue with young people - V cycle - January 2016-June 2017
***Enabling all young people to engage in a diverse, connected and inclusive Europe –
Ready for life, ready for society'.***

In summer 2016, EFIL launched a survey within its network, based on the Guiding questions for the consultation presented at the EU Youth Conference in Amsterdam. We collected 78 responses. Every participant to the survey could select 3 answers, that he/she would consider more important.

From all the participants, 85.5% were AFS Volunteers, 3.8% Board Members, 3.8% AFS Participants doing their programme, 2.6% Staff Members and 1.3% Advocacy Liaison with EFIL, answering on behalf of their AFS Organisation.



As mentioned in the previous articles, the **1) What changes in society are you concerned about and what do you need to be able to adapt to such changes? What would make you feel more secure?**

60.3% of the participants were worried about the increment of xenophobia and hate speech. 41% were worried about 'discrimination of certain groups. Other 41% were worried about 'environmental changes'.

Regarding the first two topics, comments were stated, such as 'promoting voluntary work in Refugee Camps', the 'improvement of education', the 'consideration of young people's opinion and youth participation', 'stop considering hate speech as normal or being tolerated at all', 'work on tolerance to eradicate discrimination', 'feel people have respect for each other', the 'assurance of basic youth rights'.

For the last one, people were concerned about the future generations and suggested a revision of the consumption habits and stop food wasting, and the usage of sustainable options, instead of exploiting resources.

2) What would help you connect more and build trust with people from a different cultural, social, economic, religious background than yours?

67.9% consider long term exchanges (study abroad, internships, volunteering...) a good way to connect more and build trust from a different background. 51.3% consider that ICL should be a

subject in every school. 44.9% think that a solution could be 'short term experiences abroad (study, trainings, youth exchanges in schools/associations, internships, volunteering, travels...)' or 'easier access to funding for project development with people from different cultural backgrounds (training courses, seminars, exchanges, camps...)'.

3) What can be done to avoid the stigmatisation of vulnerable young people and provide them with equal opportunities in society?

To avoid stigmatisation of vulnerable young people and provide them equal opportunities in society, 65.4% call for more intercultural education for everyone (mandatory in schools). 61.5% think that it should be created a space for discussion and debate, including young people from different and vulnerable backgrounds to express their point of view and be heard. 53.8% state that media information should be impartial and non-manipulated.

4) What do you think makes you feel that you belong to a local community, to society, to Europe?

65.4% consider that the possibility to express their point of view and participate fully in democracy (vote, be heard by politicians, influence policies...) would help to feel part of a community, society or Europe. 60.3% think that should have a space for talk, hang out and meet other people of different ages and backgrounds. 48.7% consider that participating in any kind of youth work (volunteering in a local association, organisation or institution) helps to create that sense of belonging.

5) What competences would help you when you are facing difficult situations?

74.4% pointed the social and civic competences as essentials for facing difficult situations in life. 69.2% consider the communication in foreign languages a plus. 60.3% thinks that learning to learn would be helpful.

6) What would you need to fully realize your potential and help others to realize theirs?

Develop critical thinking or equal equal opportunities to access quality education are what 69.2% young people need to fully realize their potential. 56.4% consider that they need opportunities to experience mobility abroad (study, volunteer, internships...). 33.3% calls for better employment opportunities to match with their aspirations, studies and abilities.

The results were somehow expected by EFIL, since we have been strongly advocating for some things that were mentioned, but this can give more reasons to continue this work and reinforce it when advocated for.

[Here](#) you can learn more about the EU Structured dialogue process.