

# Sustainable Partnerships for SDG's and EU Youth Goals





Giving youth a real say in sports

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The United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) number 17 ([Partnerships for the Goals](#)) was set forward to revitalise global partnerships for sustainable development in a multi-stakeholder and cross-sectoral approach.

While the SDG 17 targets areas such as 'Finance', 'Technology', 'Trade', and 'Capacity Building', just to name a few, our focus lies within the 'multi-stakeholder partnerships', who is set forward to:

- Enhance the global partnership for sustainable development, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilise and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the sustainable development goals in all countries, in particular developing countries;
- Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships.

Thus, one can understand that in an increasingly interdependent global society dangerously challenged by multiple factors of polarisation, multilateralism and multi-stakeholder partnerships are crucial to leverage the cross-sectoral interconnection between the Sustainable Development Goals and the EU Youth Goals, and therefore enhance their effectiveness and impact while accelerating progress in their achievement.

Under this objective, the 'HealthyLifestyle4All Youth Ideas Labs' initiative has an important contribution to play. The '[HealthyLifestyle4All](#)' is the European Commission's two-year campaign launched in 2021 as a follow-up to the Tartu Call for Healthy Lifestyles. Its overarching objective to promote healthy lifestyles translates the

[www.youth-sport.net](http://www.youth-sport.net) | [info@youth-sport.net](mailto:info@youth-sport.net) | +370 5 2310637

Lithuanian Union of Sports Federations | Lietuvos sporto federacijų sąjunga, Zemaites 6, LT-03117 Vilnius, Lithuania



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European Commission's goal to engage individuals and social groups in a cross-sectoral approach to health and well-being, by linking sport and active lifestyles with health, food, mobility, and other policies.

Within the framework of the European Year of Youth, such a campaign took on the ambition to include Young People's voices through the HealthyLifestyles4All Youth Ideas Labs, thus contributing to Youth inclusion and participation in promoting healthy lifestyle for all. This step allowed to broaden the initiative across generations, thus providing an important impetus on the synergies between Youth and Sport, but also on the need to promote intergenerational dialogue and solidarity.

The 'HealthyLifestyles4All Youth Ideas Labs' kick-started in June 2022 at the EU Sport Forum. In Lille, the young participants proposed five main areas to focus on, namely:

- Mental Health
- Sport Mobility - 'easy to move'
- Inclusion of Transgender Youth into Grassroots Sports
- Digital Health and Well-being
- Healthy Solidarity

From the selected topics, ideas were born to improve the lives of young people in Europe. The group continued to work on the initial proposals and concluded with a final presentation in September, at the Official Opening Event of the European Week of Sport. In between the two events, the young delegates also met in Brussels where they gained in-depth knowledge of the EU affairs and respective institutions, and agreed upon the creation of a sixth working group focusing specifically on the legacy of the 'HealthyLifestyles4All Youth Ideas Labs'.

While the five original working groups came up with specific topic-related proposals, the legacy group objective was to ensure the continuation of the Youth Ideas Labs through structured, meaningful and effective participatory mechanisms for Youth

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engagement within the wider Sport Sector, ranging from grassroots participation to policy-making. As such, while the topic-related working groups could operate technically closer to national and local levels, the legacy group would operate at European level and therefore be guided by the inclusion of the Youth perspective towards the efficient implementation of the Sport Policy (i.e. EU Work Plan for Sport, Council Conclusions) the EU Youth Strategy and respective EU Youth Goals, whilst inherently contributing to the implementation of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.

Additionally, the Youth Ideas Labs built on the expertise and partnership between a diversified group of youth organisations and therefore could be of great added value considering the [Youth Action Plan in EU External Action](#) and its respective aim to engage young people and youth organisations along the policy cycle and across its three pillars:

- 1) partnership to engage: increasing young people's voices in policy and decision-making;
- 2) partnership to empower: fighting inequalities and providing young people with the skills and tools they need to thrive;
- 3) partnership to connect: fostering opportunities for young people to network and exchange with their peers worldwide.

Thus, for the above-mentioned reasons, ENGSO Youth welcomes the inclusion of the "HealthyLifestyle4All Youth Ideas Labs" in the [European Commission's Work Programme for 2023](#) and strongly encourages the further development of the initiative and the necessary call to action for further Youth engagement and participation within the Sport Sector at all levels (local, regional, national and european). You can read the HealthyLifestyle4All Youth Ideas Labs proposals [here](#).

Taking advantage of already existing events and structures to set forward such cooperation within the Youth and Sport fields necessarily translates it into a low-maintenance and cost-efficient initiative. On the other hand, the know-how of such

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a professionalised and diversified group of young people ensures the up-to-date and innovative proposals, in line with the ambitious digital and green transitions.

Taken together, the potential of such a structured cooperation can strengthen already existing sector-specific dialogues and foster important synergies between the Sport sector, the Youth sector, but also across other areas such as Education, Health, Innovation, and Culture, making the Youth Ideas Labs not only a concept pilot flagship initiative of the European Year of Youth, but an actually graspable legacy of the Year, a win-win for Youth, EU Institutions and Stakeholders alike.

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