

Press release

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Presidency of the Council of the EU: Minister Giffey opens EU Youth Conference

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Attention: Digital event starts at 5 p.m.

Whether it be effective climate protection, higher investments in education or high-speed internet – many decisions made by politicians have an immediate impact on the lives and the future of the younger generation. This is why young people across Europe want to be heard and have their say. The subject of “youth and democracy” is therefore one of the priorities of the **Federal Ministry for Youth** during Germany’s Presidency of the Council of the EU. From 2 to 5 October 2020, the **Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth** is organising a digital EU Youth Conference with 200 participants from about 40 European countries.

Federal Minister for Youth, Dr. Franziska Giffey: “There is great enthusiasm for Europe, especially among young people. They insist on being taken seriously and on being more strongly involved in decisions concerning them, and rightly so. Young people and young adults are an important source of inspiration for the future of democracy in Europe. During Germany’s Presidency of the Council of the EU, we also want to ensure at European level that young people’s views and ideas for democratic togetherness in Europe receive more attention. Young people and their interests have to become more visible.”

The EU Youth Conference is a central tool for participation in the context of the EU Youth Dialogue on the topic of “Europe for YOUth – YOUth for Europe: Space for Democracy and Participation”. Due to restrictions in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, it has to take place in a virtual format. In largely self-designed workshops, young people and young adults will develop ideas and proposals together with representatives of youth ministries of other countries and European institutions on how to strengthen and expand youth participation and youth-friendly spaces in

Europe. In addition, interactive elements as well as conversations with decision-makers, for example with **Federal Minister for Youth, Dr. Giffey**, will offer opportunities for exchange on a level playing field.

The results of the conference are to be incorporated, among others, into the conclusions on “youth and democracy”, which are to be adopted at the Council of the European Union on Germany’s initiative. The EU Youth Conference will be hosted by the **Federal Ministry for Youth** in close cooperation with the **German Federal Youth Council** (*Deutscher Bundesjugendring*).

You can watch the opening and closing of the EU Youth Conference by **Federal Youth Minister Giffey** via livestream on <https://www.facebook.com/bmfsfj> between 5 p.m. and 6 p.m. on 2 October and between 4 p.m. and 5.15 p.m. on 5 October.