

#YEYS2025



YOUR EUROPE

YOUR SAY !

# ***Giving Youth a Voice***

13-14 March 2025



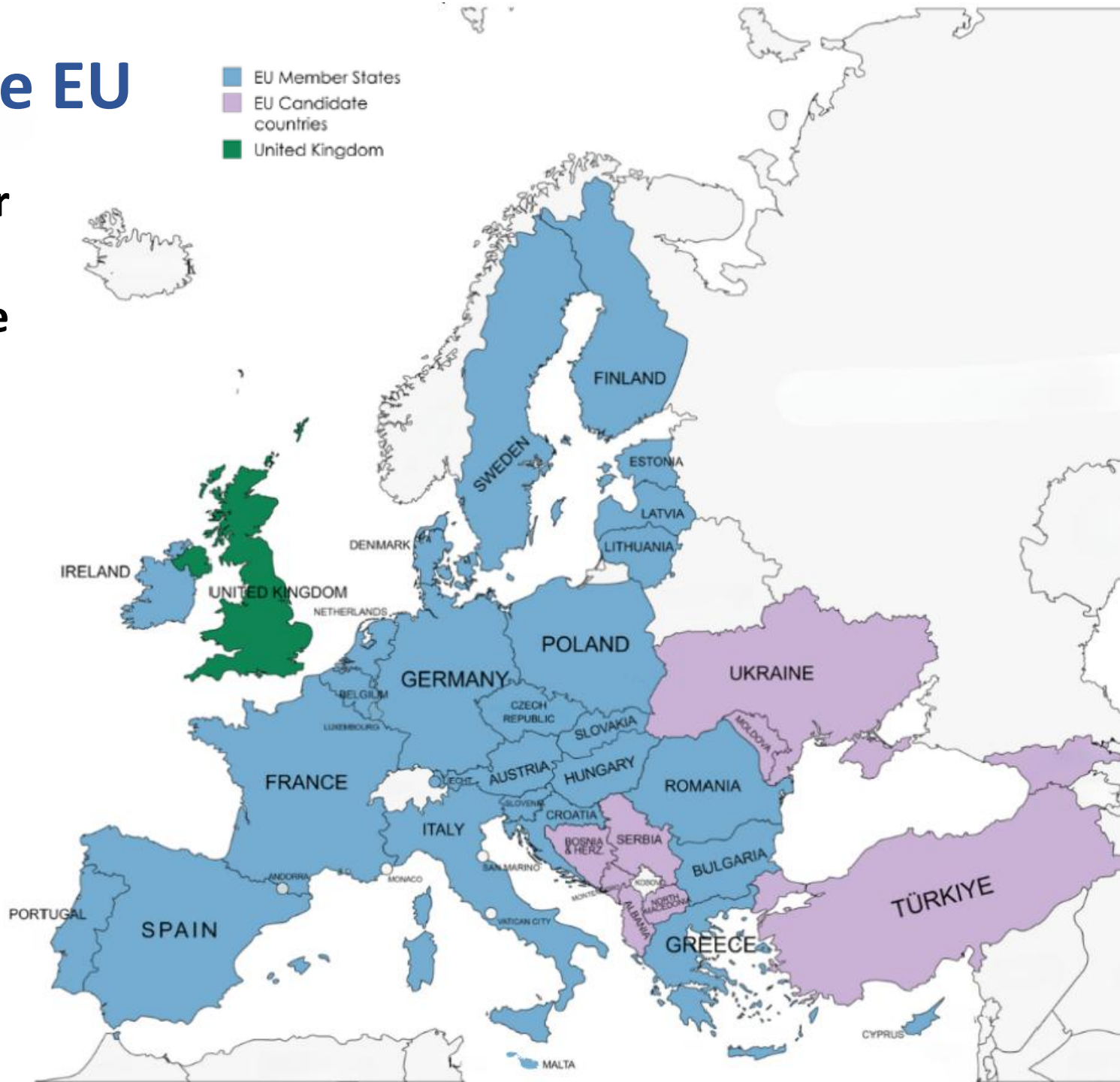
European Economic  
and Social Committee

[www.eesc.europa.eu/YEYS25](http://www.eesc.europa.eu/YEYS25)

# About the EU

- 27 Member States
- 9 candidate countries

Around 450 million citizens live in the EU.



# What does the EU do?



- promotes **peace**, its values and the **well-being of its citizens**.
- offers **freedom, security and justice** without internal borders.
- ensures its citizens have **the right to move and reside freely** within the Union.
- enhances **economic, social and territorial cohesion and solidarity** among EU countries.

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The EU's motto:  
**United in diversity**



Source: [europa.eu/!DncVGU](https://europa.eu/!DncVGU)





# What is the European Economic and Social Committee? (EESC)



European Economic  
and Social Committee



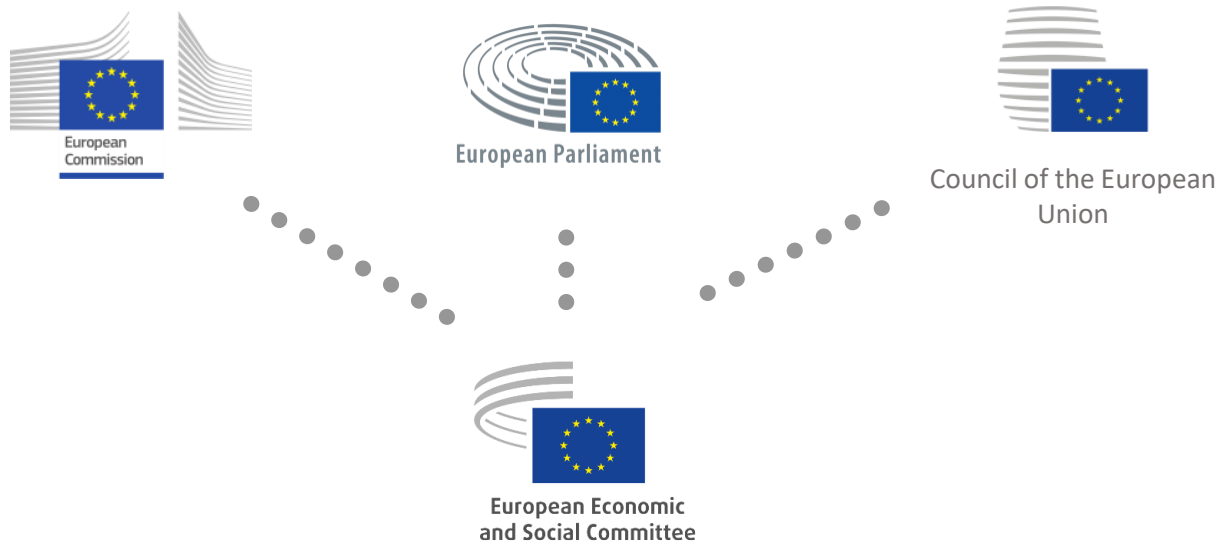
# The EESC is...

An **advisory body** set up by the Treaty of Rome (1957).

It helps **shape laws and policies** by giving **advice to decision-makers** in the European Commission, the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union.

It ensures that adopted laws consider the **needs and opinions** of different groups with diverse backgrounds. It **represents European organised civil society**, comprised of groups and organisations in which people work cooperatively.

Its main role as an **advisory body** is to help EU institutions by **providing opinions** that reflect civil society's views into EU policies and decisions.



# Who composes the EESC?

- **3 Groups:** Employers, Workers and Civil Society Organisations.
  - **329 members** (appointed for 5 years) representing the **27 EU Member States**.
  - EESC Members are **not politically affiliated** and are **not based full-time in Brussels**.
  - **± 200 opinions adopted** per year.



## Employers (107)

Employers' federations,  
Chambers of Commerce,  
SME organisations...

## Workers (112)

Trade unions

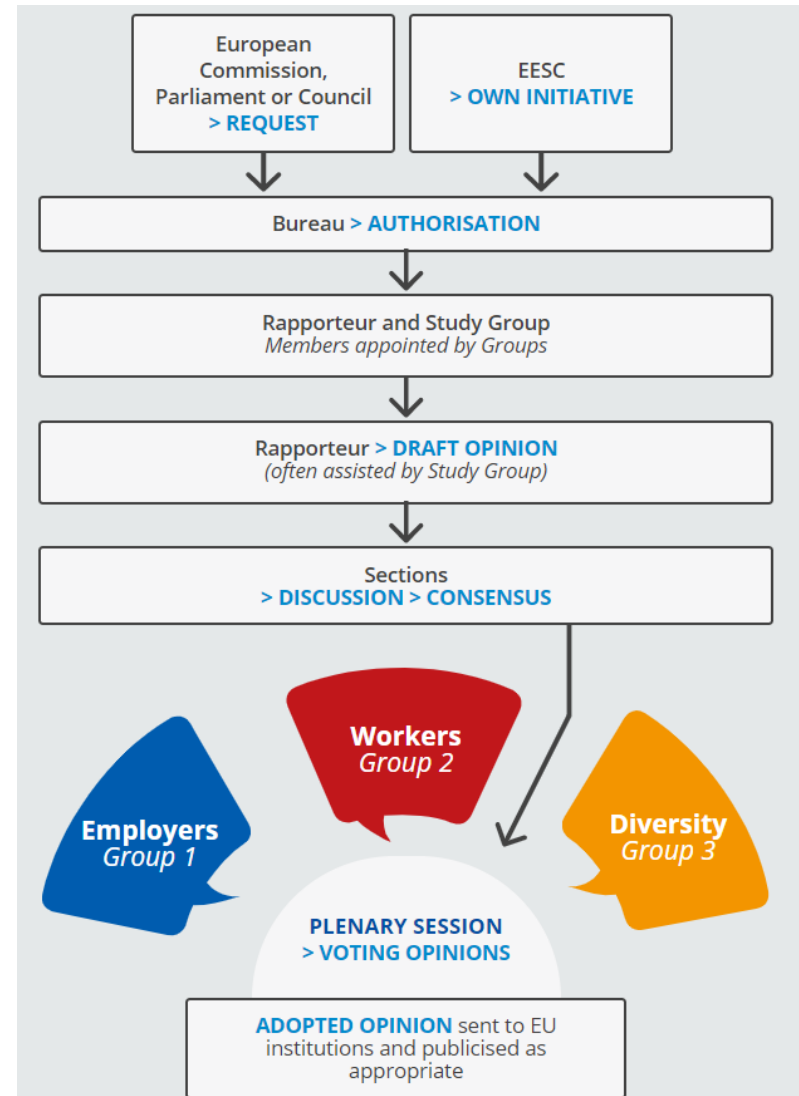
## Civil Society Organisations (106)

Farmers, consumers,  
NGOs, youth, professions,  
disability organisations,  
academics, cooperatives ...

# What is an opinion?

- The **European Parliament, the Council of the EU or the European Commission** can ask the EESC for **recommendations** regarding legislation on a particular topic.
- The **EESC members**, representing all 3 Groups, draw up a **single document, called an “opinion”**, on the proposed legislation.
- After a **consensus is reached**, the **EESC opinion is sent to the EU institutions** to be discussed and published in the EU’s Official Journal (24 languages).
- The rapporteur **presents** key findings and **promotes** the opinion at EU, Member State and local level.

Scan the QR code to find out more!



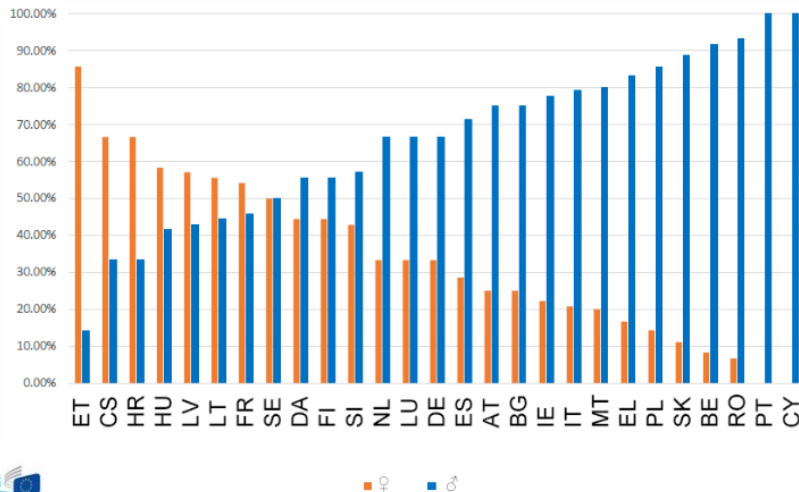


# Useful information

## Number of members by country

As with other European institutions, the committee's **geographical representation is proportional**, meaning that more populous countries are allocated a greater number of members to represent them.

Therefore, **France, Germany, and Italy** have the most members (**24**), while **Malta** has the fewest (**5**).



## Gender balance

The EESC's 2020-2025 term of office has the **highest number of female members** since statistics on membership began in 2010.

There is a higher percentage of women at the Committee than ever before: **33%** compared to 28% in 2015 and 24.70% in 2010.



# What does the EU do for young people?



## Explore

Thinking about a job in the EU institutions or another EU country?

Each year, the EU offers paid traineeships to **young university graduates**.



## Speak

You can take part in youth events like the EU Youth Dialogue, the European Parliament's European Youth Event (EYE), and **Your Europe, Your Say!** at the European Economic and Social Committee.

There, you can make your voice heard!



## Work

You can apply for jobs within the European Union when you are 18 years old.

The **EURES** scheme connects you with employers across EU, Norway and Iceland.



## Study

You are entitled to study at any EU university under the same conditions as nationals of that country.

The **ERASMUS** programme allows you to do part of your university studies abroad.



## Travel

The border-free Schengen Area gives 400 million EU citizens free movement between countries.

For instance, the **INTERRAIL** train pass allows you to reach over 40 000 destinations in 30 countries.



# EESC's Youth Offer

In September 2022, the EESC adopted the opinion *The EU Youth Test*, a tool designed to **strengthen youth participation** and mainstream youth perspectives in policy-making.

Following this, in July 2023 the **EESC Youth Group** was established, whose mandate is to:

- explore ways for young people to **actively contribute** to the Committee's work;
- foster open dialogue between **EESC members and youth organisations**.

# EESC Youth Initiatives





# Your Europe, Your Say! (YEYS!)



13 - 14 March 2025



Brussels, Belgium



133 delegates from:

- **Secondary schools** from **37 countries**: 27 Members States, 9 candidate countries, the UK
- **National Youth Councils**
- **Youth organisations**
- **European Youth Forum**



# What to expect?

**Step 1.** You will be divided into **groups** and **take part in interactive workshops** and **inspiring talks** by keynote speakers.



**Step 2.** Facilitators will guide sessions to help you **articulate your vision and expectations** for Europe's future.



**Step 3.** The event will culminate in a **final plenary session** where participants will translate their ideas into concrete recommendations.



## Outcome

The **EESC's Youth Group** will follow up by sharing the recommendations as **potential input** for advisory and political work carried out by the EESC, and explore how to integrate them in the selected opinions going through the **EU Youth Test**.

**Teachers** will also have the opportunity to visit the **House of European History**, **network** with colleagues, and follow dedicated training and information sessions from other EU institutions with a concrete youth offer to share.

# #YEYS2025 objectives

The EESC is hosting the **16<sup>th</sup> edition** of the *Your Europe, Your Say!* youth event.

This year, YEYS will:

- Empower youth and equip the participants with tools for **participatory democracy**.
- Encourage young participants **to voice their concerns** on EU issues.
- Inspire future **civic engagement** with the EU and their communities.

**#YEYS2025 #GivingYouthAVoice**





# What will you gain from this experience?

- You will have fun and inspiring exchanges with other students and young people from **across Europe**.



- Together with other participants, you will be invited to explore and come up with **creative solutions to empower youth engagement and strengthen participatory democracy**.
- After YEYS!, you will also receive **a YEYS! diploma**.
- You will be provided with **educational materials to share with your class, friends and family**.

# Stay in touch!

**SCAN ME !**



Scan the QR code, visit the webpage and stay tuned in with the event!

Want to reach out? Email us at [youreurope@eesc.europa.eu](mailto:youreurope@eesc.europa.eu)

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**See you soon in Brussels!**





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