



Placing youth at the centre of the OECD: Youthwise 2022 insights for the way forward

We, the second class of the OECD's Youth Advisory Board, are a diverse group of 24 young people representing views from across OECD Member Countries. Throughout our tenure, we have highlighted the need to include youth perspectives in responses to global challenges and apply an intergenerational justice lens in decision-making. For us, meaningful youth participation is essential to dealing with global challenges such as the climate crisis, equal access to quality education, the lack of social mobility in many nations, and the effects of digitalisation. We have worked extensively on these matters during our tenure, speaking at the OECD Ministerial Council Meeting and OECD COP27 Virtual Pavilion, participating in the launch of the Observatory on Social Mobility and Equal Opportunity, and attending the OECD Digital Economy Ministerial Meeting on the Twin Transition, among many other activities.

As the 2022 OECD Youth Advisory Board, we would like to share key messages with the OECD Secretary-General, OECD Member Countries, and Youthwise 2023.

To the **Secretary-General and OECD leadership:**

As heads of one of the world's most influential intergovernmental organisations, you have a critical role in engaging youth stakeholders in the most pressing crises facing our people and planet. We call for:

1. Quarterly meetings with the OECD Youth Advisory Board to exchange on the recommendations of young people regarding ongoing and future OECD work, and to share how youth priorities have been incorporated into OECD work to date;
2. Meaningful and regular engagement with the Directorate for Public Governance's Network of Youth Organisations, as well as increased efforts to further engage with BIPOC, LGBTQI+ and other marginalised youth whose voices often go unheard within and outside those youth networks; and
3. Reinforcing foresightedness in policymaking by ensuring that the OECD assesses the impacts on young people and future generations of all its recommendations, reports, and policies, following the example of an EU Youth Test.

To OECD **Member Countries:**

We recognise that every nation is unique. However, further efforts are needed across all Member Countries for youth to feel like they are valuable stakeholders in policymaking. We call for:

1. Meaningful and regular engagement of young people and youth organisations in the development, implementation, and follow-up of national, regional, and local decision-making processes, for example the Welsh Well-being of Future Generations Act;



2. Inclusion of youth perspectives in the regular review process of OECD recommendations, including but not limited to the Youth Action Plan;
3. Strengthening the capacity of youth organisations and stakeholders by providing financial resources and tools to enable their participation in decision-making;
4. Making voting processes easier for young adults in all Member Countries;
5. Fully implementing the 'Recommendation of the Council on Creating Better Opportunities for Young People' in collaboration with national, regional, and local youth stakeholders; and
6. Applying an intergenerational justice perspective to policies on.
 - a. Climate: Moving beyond decarbonisation towards dematerialisation, setting national targets for the absolute reduction of resource consumption following the examples of Austria and the Netherlands.
 - b. Education: Promoting more accessible modes of knowledge delivery to help break the economic, geographic, and other barriers that inhibit access to quality education.
 - c. Social mobility: Ensuring all young people have equal access to opportunities regardless of their background or where they live by providing affordable housing and supporting youth participation in community decision-making.
 - d. Green and digital transition: Supporting growth in green industries through targeted incentives to create more green jobs for young people.
 - e. Health and wellbeing: Ensuring that the opportunities enabled by digitalisation are equally distributed while responding to the physical, mental, and social problems that result from using technology.
 - f. Training: Ending unpaid internships within the OECD and its Member Countries.

To Youthwise 2023:

As the incoming **OECD Youth Advisory Board**, you have a rare opportunity. We strongly encourage you to:

1. Continue advocating for and representing the youth's voice in conversations on climate, education, work, social mobility, and the effects of digitalisation;
2. Remember that your experiences and ideas are valuable and should be heard – never hesitate to share your thoughts;
3. Express your opinions and lived experiences in ways that are familiar to you. Youthwise members should support and encourage each other to speak freely in their own words;
4. Create, seek, and find opportunities yourself – do not wait for them to be presented to you;
5. Continue to give due consideration to the importance of youth participation in decision-making;
6. Work hand-in-hand with the OECD, but don't be afraid to advocate for your priorities. You may at times, have to push to ensure the youth's voice is heard and acted on;
7. Take advantage of this opportunity to tell decision-makers what you care about, what they should be focusing on, and what you want from them, and;
8. Remember that you will not have solved everything in one year, but you can make valuable progress.