



Ideas Network 2030

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POTENTIAL IDEAS TO IMPROVE THE UK-EU RELATIONSHIP IN PARTICULAR FOR A YOUNGER GENERATION

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Arising from discussions in the IN2030, and in particular the Summer University 2021, these ideas are designed with a younger generation in mind. They must be fully considered to ensure that young people can continue to engage with one another across borders in a way that ensures future understanding and cooperation.

1. Encouraging exchanges for mutual understanding

Learning

- Programmes already exist in the UK and EU; however, new ideas should be considered which are tailored to the specifics on the new UK/EU relationship.
- This could best be done by associating the Erasmus and Turing Programmes or by creating a more formal partnership that brings the two programmes together.
- A new partnership could also be established which looks at facilitating vocational training, apprenticeships, or those who might be undertaking retraining, in the UK and EU.

Institutional exchange

- Formal exchanges between UK, EU, and EU Member State Governments (for example France and Germany) and institutions should be developed.
- This could take the form of secondments, placements, and exchanges, where young civil servants, diplomats and military personnel could spend time living and working in each other's countries to enable them to better understand respective systems and cultures.
- A parliamentary exchange scheme should also be created that would fund young early career individuals working in the House of Commons to spend time working in EU and Member State Parliaments.

Travel

- Under existing arrangements, following the UK's departure from the EU, youth travellers are limited to 90 day stays out of 180. This limits the kind of opportunities, available for young people from the UK and EU.
- To increase youth mobility between the EU and UK, policies should be implemented to allow people under 30 to move freely for travel and work. This would allow unhindered mobility for those who wish to travel for extended periods or take up employment opportunities.
- A pilot scheme could be introduced which would also examine what arrangements could be made to address certain issues regarding healthcare and other insurances.

2. Securing support for democracy

- Recent global developments, such as the evacuation of Afghanistan, have contributed to a perception of a weakening democracy in the face of authoritarian, illiberal forces.
- To counteract this, the UK and EU should convene an annual Youth Democracy Conference attended by young people from across the UK and EU aimed discussing and debating ideas to halt reducing levels of support for democracy and free markets in young people in democracies outside the USA.
- The UK and EU could also explore the creation of a Youth Democracy Foundation, the purpose of which would be to address the challenges facing the democratic world and act as a forum for young people to explore key trends and issues facing democracies around the world.

3. Digital transformation

- The digital revolution continues to have a major transformative effect on the lives of young people, helping create new opportunities and empowerment. Appropriate rules are essential to maintain confidence in digital systems.
- Every effort must be made to ensure compatibility between UK, EU and US regulatory worlds in vital matters such as data flows and roaming.
- The UK and EU should establish a working group for the digital transformation and cyber security whose remit is to ensure that the digital environment between the UK and EU not only reflects the latest in safety and security but also allows UK and EU business to operate in the most efficient ways.

4. Innovation, the economy and free trade

- UK nationals currently have access to the Horizon Programme, however, anecdotal evidence suggests that continued uncertainty, as well as issues relating to movement between UK the EU, have negatively impacted on this area of cooperation. Access to such programmes should be made for their duration.
- In view of the need to improve business to business contacts and international trade, the Government should consider a new pilot programme to encourage small business to participate in trade including providing online assistance for those firms who have not yet traded externally to make sure they have the help they need to do so.
- The UK and EU could establish a “Young Tech Entrepreneur Fund” to help and assist young business owners and entrepreneurs to find access to finance and opportunity in UK and EU markets. This could be linked to a new youth mobility scheme.

5. Climate change

- Following its hosting of the COP26 Conference in November, the UK should continue to its global leadership to create a new “Youth Climate Action Programme” for a young generation to promote awareness around climate change issues.
- The programme should bring together younger leaders under 30, from across the EU and UK, to provide new opportunities to act and collaborate regarding issues of importance to climate and the environment.
- This programme should furnish young leaders with the skills and knowledge needed to influence future climate decision making.