

Youth Partnership

Partnership between the European Commission
and the Council of Europe in the field of youth



EUROPEAN UNION



COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

POOL OF EUROPEAN YOUTH RESEARCHERS (PEYR)

1ST CONSULTATIVE MEETING

Bureau International de Jeunesse

Brussels

7th - 8th February 2011

MINUTES

1. Participants

PEYR finalists:

Manfred ZENTNER (Austria), Philip COUSSEE (Belgium), Siyka KOVACHEVA (Bulgaria), Dunja POTOČNIK (Croatia), Marti TARU (Estonia), Leena SUURPÄÄ (Finland), Beatrix NIEMEYER (Germany), Bence SÁGVÁRI (Hungary), Jón SIGFUSSON (Iceland), Maurice DEVLIN (Ireland), Barbara Giovana BELLO (Italy), Charles BERG (Luxembourg), Mireille GEMMEKE (Netherlands), Ewa KRZAKLEWSKA (Poland), Magda NICO (Portugal), Carmen PANTEA (Romania), Elena OMELCHENKO (Russian Federation), Sladjana PETKOVIC (Serbia), Erik ÅMNA (Sweden), Robert THOMSON (Switzerland), Ozgehan SENYUVA (Turkey), Kateryna SHALAYEVA (Ukraine), Barry GOLDSON (United Kingdom)

Apologies for absence: Ilze TRAPINCIERE (Latvia) and Lihong HUANG (Norway).

European Commission:

DG EAC, Youth Policy Unit: Floor VAN HOUDT and Finn DENSTAD

Council of Europe:

European Steering Committee for Youth (CDEJ): Seija ASTALA

Advisory Council on Youth: Camelia NISTOR

Apologies for absence: Ulrich BUNJES, Directorate for Youth and Sport, DG IV

EU-CoE youth partnership team:

Hanjo SCHILD, Lilia KOLOMBET, Philipp BOETZELEN, Caroline LARGHI

2. Information from partner institutions

The European Commission representatives informed the members of PEYR of the EU Youth Strategy and its overall objectives in the field of youth. These are (a) creation of more and equal opportunities for all young people in education and in the labour market, and (b) promotion of active citizenship, social inclusion and solidarity of all young people. They emphasised the Commission's evidence-based approach to youth policy, reflected through the EU Youth report, development of a dashboard of indicators on youth, a Eurobarometer survey on youth currently taking place, close co-operation with Eurostat as well as following up of EU-funded youth research. The EU's Structured Dialogue with young people also ensures that young people's concerns reaches policy decision-makers at different levels. The Commission also provided information on three studies it is undertaking in order to gain new information in the youth policy field: A study on indicators in youth related fields will be concluded in March 2011, while studies on the participation of young people and on the social and economic impact of youth work will be launched in 2011 and be concluded in 2012.

The CDEJ representative recalled the Council of Europe priorities of the youth sector: (a) human rights education and intercultural dialogue, (b) youth participation and democratic citizenship, (c) social cohesion and inclusion of young people. She stressed the importance given to the research activities by the CoE Agenda 2020 (adopted in autumn 2008). She informed participants about the CDEJ activities, particularly related to the preparation of international reviews on national youth policies and the organisation of the ministerial conferences. Information was provided on the 9th CoE Conference of Ministers responsible for Youth (September 2012, St Petersburg, Russian Federation). The representative of the Advisory Council on youth (the non-governmental partner in the co-managed bodies of the youth sector) underlined the AC role in (a) reinforcing the capacity of YNGOs and (b) promoting and developing youth policies in Europe, with special emphasis on youth participation.

The EU-CoE youth partnership coordinator informed the participants about its general agenda and activities related to knowledge-based youth policy. He stressed in particular the role of the European Knowledge Centre on Youth Policy (EKCY) and its network of national correspondents and emphasized the need for establishing an efficient dialogue between policy and research through connecting activities between the EKCY and the PEYR. He recalled that the PEYR replaces the former European Youth Researchers Network.

3. The role and the tasks of the PEYR – desired outcomes and opportunities

The participants had an exchange on the role and the tasks of the PEYR, desired outcomes as well as the opportunities that should be seized when defining the PEYR working methods and organisational structure. The researchers suggested that the following aspects are addressed, by means of their own resources (professional networks), with the support of the secretariat, or through the means of the partner institutions (still to be defined):

The role of the PEYR and its contribution to knowledge-based policy: set overall scope, strategic goals and deliverables that will ensure efficient functioning of the pool and efficient use of the pool's resources; explore good practices of scientific policy advising; promote cross-fertilization of policy, practice and research; act as a focal point for providing the interface with broader research themes and other cross-sectoral policies (employment, social cohesion, family, generation, childhood).

The PEYR ethical commitments and responsibilities: the activities of the pool to respond to the needs and concerns of young people and be guided by the intention to act in their best interests thus maximising their human potential; ensure the appropriate use of knowledge and accurate, current and peer-reviewed information; seek balance between political relevance and research integrity.

Quality assurance and research watch: seek to advocate for most valuable research in the field of youth and to promote its relevance, while highlighting important findings; provide comparative studies concerning changes in youth life and evaluation studies on programmes and policies; combine qualitative and quantitative analysis, promoting mixed methods approaches; provide research watch activities on already existing non-disseminated studies and pioneering/innovative research.

Structuring the working methods: consider developing a structure of activities – e.g. "steering panels" or "initiative groups" on key themes/issues, as well as supporting the development of projects, clusters and networks.

Interface with other structures and operational groups: to undertake the exchange of information and to explore the mechanisms of collaboration with other structures and operational groups of the partner institutions (e.g. Youth Working Party, CDEJ, Advisory Council on youth, the National Agencies of the EC's Youth in Action programme)

Dissemination of information and communication: to ensure that the evidence-based knowledge and policy-driven research undertaken as part of the pool activities will be properly disseminated to maximise transparency and encourage inclusion; in close cooperation with the European Knowledge Centre for Youth Policy (EKCY), and ideally through its web settings, develop and ensure the implementation of a communication strategy and supplying networking interconnection service through the use of web platform and forum.

Liaison with the national and regional levels and networks: ensure the necessary co-ordination for optimising the interface between the PEYR and the national and regional levels; establish the liaison with relevant national research institutes and networks.

4. Structuring of research interests

A "tour de table" of researchers was organised with the aim of, firstly, evaluating the researchers' potential contribution to the work of the PEYR, secondly, of distilling some

common themes recurring in the research which are of interest to partner institutions and which will contribute to the formulation of the **PEYR agenda**.

Researchers raised a wide range of topics and emphasized that youth issues are inextricably linked to core social, political and cultural concerns. Themes might be structured as follows:

- Transition school to work, education and training, employment and entrepreneurship
- Social cohesion, inclusion and exclusion, poverty, juvenile justice, criminology
- Discrimination, stereotypes and prejudices, minorities, subcultures
- Multicultural societies, intercultural dialogue, migration and mobility
- Participation, active citizenship, voluntarism, civic engagement, democracy
- Changes in youth life, transitions, childhood, families, adulthood, gender, intergenerational relationships
- Health, drugs and alcohol, well-being, lifestyles, autonomy, housing, kinds of mobility, violence
- Culture, creativity, media, information society
- Human rights and access to rights, values, religion

As a cross-cutting issue youth policy needs to develop standards for policy-making, by promoting the role of non-formal education and youth work and recognising them; production, dissemination and use of knowledge on the situation of young people in Europe is crucial in this respect.

5. Terms of reference

The EC-CoE youth partnership secretariat presented the draft terms of reference (ToR) for the PEYR describing its objectives, role and tasks, composition and working methods.

It was underlined that the aim of the ToR is to provide guidance to the PEYR rather than committing it to particular approaches. It was proposed that the ToR can be amended with the consent of the partners and according to evolving needs.

It was decided that researchers send their inputs (specific suggestions of text additions, editing, etc.) to the partnership secretariat by 28 February 2011. The partnership secretariat will prepare and distribute a new version of the ToR.

It was emphasised from the EU-CoE youth partnership team that PEYR should take on a non-bureaucratic and non-hierarchical nature, and that it should not be necessary to appoint any of the PEYR members as a contact-person. This was endorsed by the pool.

PEYR also endorsed a proposal that Manfred ZENTNER and Leena SUURPÄÄ attend the meeting of the Council of Europe Steering Committee on Youth on 16th – 18th March.

The participants suggested that the partnership secretariat provides a calendar of youth-related events for possible PEYR involvement or participations.

6. The follow-up of the 1st consultative meeting

(1) The creation of the PEYR will be announced through the EU-CoE youth partnership website. (2) The PEYR members will sign up as experts in the EKCYP database and will provide their portfolios and contact data. (3) Web-based networking system will be set up to allow an exchange of information and documents.

ANNEXE - AGENDA

Monday, 7th of February

- 14:00h** **Opening of the meeting and welcome from the European Commission and the Council of Europe**
- 14:30h** **Introduction from the two institutions on recent developments in the field of better knowledge of youth**
Floor VAN HOUDT, Deputy Head of Unit for Youth Policy and Finn DENSTAD, Policy Officer, DG Education and Culture (DG EAC), European Commission
Seija ASTALA, Vice-Person of the European Steering Committee for Youth (CDEJ) - Council of Europe, Counsellor for Cultural Affairs - Ministry of Education, Department for Culture, Sport and Youth Policy
Presentation of the youth partnership - perspectives of youth research policy - actual situation - available data - issues and challenges
Hanjo SCHILD, Coordinator of the EU-CoE youth partnership
- 15:30h** **Questions, expectations**
- 16:00h** **Coffee/tea break**
- 16h30** **Tour de table of researchers - individual presentation based on issue papers prepared prior to the meeting (10 min).**
Group I - 10 persons: *Manfred ZENTNER (Austria), Philip COUSSEE (Belgium), Siyka KOVACHEVA (Bulgaria), Dunja POTOČNIK (Croatia), Marti TARU (Estonia), Leena SUURPÄÄ (Finland), Beatrix NIEMEYER (Germany), Bence SÁGVÁRI (Hungary), Jón SIGFUSSON (Iceland), Maurice DEVLIN (Ireland).*
- 18:30h** **Closing of the first day**
- 20:00h** **Dinner out**

Tuesday, 8th of February

- 09:00h** **Follow-up of the *tour de table*.**
Group II - 5 persons: *Barbara Giovana BELLO (Italy), Charles BERG (Luxembourg), Mireille GEMMEKE (Netherlands), Ewa KRZAKLEWSKA, Magda NICO (Portugal).*
- 10:00h** **Group III - 4 persons:** *Maria-Carmen PANTEA (Romania), Elena OMELCHENKO (Russian Federation), Sladjana PETKOVIC (Serbia), Erik ÅMNA (Sweden).*
- 10:45h** **Coffee/tea break**
- 11:00h** **Group IV - 4 persons:** *Robert THOMSON (Switzerland), Ozgehan SENYUVA (Turkey), Kateryna SHALAYEVA (Ukraine), Barry GOLDSON (United Kingdom)*
- 11:45h** **Open discussion, questions**
- 12:45h** **Lunch**
- 14:15h** **Presentation by the Secretariat of the working methods and of Terms of reference. Selection of contact person.**
- 15:45h** **Coffee/tea break**
- 16:00h** **Questions and open discussion**
- 17:30h** **Conclusions and closing of the meeting**