

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 Constituting Meeting 2014-2016

**Correspondents of the European Knowledge Centre for Youth Policy
10th Annual Meeting**

Draft Report – 25 November 2014

Dolmen Resort Hotel, Qawra (Malta)

**NB: This is a report of the EU-CoE Youth Partnership team and does not
necessarily reflect the opinion of the partner institutions**

Agenda

- Welcome words and Introduction;
- Presentation of the partnership team, including areas of responsibility;
- Introductory round from PEYR Members and EKCYP correspondents;
- Presentation and expectations from Partner Institutions;
- Introduction to PEYR and EKCYP correspondents: specificities and common areas;
- Forthcoming events and next steps;
- EKCYP: State of art, further developments foreseen.

Meeting report

The meeting took place jointly for the two groups of PEYR and EKCYP correspondents.

It was opened by **Marta Medlinska**, coordinator of the EU-CoE youth partnership, who welcomed all participants. She especially welcomed Karin Lopatta-Loibl, representing the European Commission. She then introduced the staff of the EU-CoE youth partnership.

A round of introduction and presentation of each group took place: participants had the chance to meet each other and have an informal exchange concerning their areas of expertise and interest.

Karin Lopatta-Loibl took then the floor and expressed her satisfaction with the presence of PEYR members and EKCYP correspondents, and for the work of the EU-CoE youth partnership especially within the “Better Knowledge” specific objective.

Her presentation revolved around the theme “Improving knowledge on youth and youth policies - Youth Wiki Tool Project”.

Firstly, she addressed the question “why this project”? The reasons that were brought forth were

- The EU has a clear mandate to improve knowledge on youth;
- Together, we have developed important and useful tools;
- They are far from providing an up-to-date, complete and coherent picture;
- Opportunity for web-based tools to better sharing knowledge.

She then stressed the need for **coherence among main information providers on youth issues and existing knowledge tools**.

As hitherto envisaged, the content of the wiki tool would be

- A comprehensive and updated picture of youth policies in the European Union;
- Comparable information by country and by theme;
- Data on the situation of young people at EU level and by MS.

More specifically possible content of the Youth Wiki Tool would be

EU overview	By Country
	0. Overview by country
1. Political, Social and Economic Background	1. Political, Social and Economic Background
2. Situation of the young people (Dashboard)	2. Situation of the young people (Dashboard)
3. Organisation, governance and funding of youth policy	3. Organisation, governance and funding of youth policy
4. The Youth Work sector	4. The Youth Work sector
5. Education and training	5. Education and training
6. Voluntary activities	6. Voluntary activities
7. Participation	7. Participation
8. Youth & the world	8. Youth & the world
9. Employment & entrepreneurship	9. Employment & entrepreneurship
10. Health & well-being	10. Health & well-being
11. Social inclusion	11. Social inclusion
12. Creativity & culture	12. Creativity & culture
13. Bibliography and Research on Youth	13. Bibliography and Research on Youth
14. Legislation	14. Legislation
15. Glossary	15. Glossary

Ms Lopatta-Loibl then provided an example of a possible area, Education and Training, of the wiki tool for a given country:

- Policy framework, organisation and funding;
- Main actors (role of public sector in Non-formal education, NGOs...);
- Specific initiatives at national level (ex: youth work against early school leaving);
- Main indicators (early school leavers, low achievers...).

When it comes to the functioning of the tool, the following main points were raised:

- The IT-base would be wiki software such as *Eurypedia*, managed by the EACEA;

- *Eurypedia* developed a strong expertise in gathering quality data for wiki;
- They also can rely on a solid network as a basis for gathering data;
- There would be national ownership of gathered material.

As for the producers of the information,

- from the EU level, the European Commission and the Eurydice European Unit would process the information based on various sources;
- from the national level, these would be the National Units of Eurydice, in cooperation with youth experts and other actors.

At the time of the presentation, the foreseen schedule would be a staged approach 2015-2018, although the exact timeline was to be decided with all information providers.

This being the end of Ms Lopatta-Loibl's presentation, a number of questions and observations from participants ensued. The main issues raised are succinctly presented below:

- The responsibility of the appointment of national correspondents would rest in the hands of national governments, that in turn would tend to appoint representatives from the (formal) education sector, who are not necessarily familiar with the specificity of youth policy and non-formal education;
- There was some confusion as a certain number members of EKCYP and PEYR had already been contacted concerning whether they were ready to provide information for the Youth Wiki tool;
- the Wiki Tool would concern EU Members States only; in order to increase the information turnout compared to EKCYP, specific grants would be issued for the informants;
- It would be important not to lose the country sheets already produced in the context of the EKCYP, and in general to better explore the interaction between this latter and the whole Youth Wiki tool concept;
- By definition, a "wiki" is generated and fed in by a community; creating such a community would be a challenging task but it was not clear if that was the intention;
- Among PEYR and EKCYP there was also an expression of some frustration, since in some cases those who collect data and produce the information are not rewarded, whereas some other actors can freely use these data for creating documents that then entail financial compensations of some sorts;
- Some comments concerned the envisaged impact of the data gathered by the Wiki tool, and suggested to plan on that carefully;
- How would Member States agree on a given categorisation, seen that youth policy is very different across European countries?
- On another perspective, the Wiki tool could favour a stronger cooperation among actors at national level, and possibly foster stronger mutual understanding across different sectors
- The Eurydice Network, charged with the development of the tool, lacks sensitivity and expertise towards the youth sector, that is by definition cross-sectorial;
- Why had the EC decided to create a Wiki tool instead of deciding to invest in the EKCYP the extra resources made available for the former?
- Who will check on the quality of the provided and updated data, considered that there is a paucity of such details in many areas of the envisaged Wiki tool (hard/soft data)?
- Will it be an encyclopaedia of youth knowledge or a wiki community?
- The experience of EKCYP shows that when national governments are in charge of gathering data, this process is not transparent and scientifically viable, since data are generally not reliable: MSs propend to use those data that are placing them in a good light;
- How to proceed with the non-EU countries? Will they be discarded? In case of integration of EKCYP and Wiki Tool, there is a risk of having two groups of countries, with different treatment, generating an unfair balance.

Ms Lopatta-Loibl took good note of all the observations raised, and clarified that in the view of the EC there was still a great deal of room for the EKCYP also in the perspective of the implementation of the Wiki tool: to this end, she stressed on that the team of the EU-CoE partnership had been invited to produce a concept paper for the development of the EKCYP in light of the planned implementation of the Wiki tool.

Marta Medlinska then took the floor and in the absence of the Council of Europe representative presented briefly the recent developments at **the Council of Europe**, in particular in **the youth sector**. She first mentioned the three priorities for the years until 2016: Democratic Governance and Innovation, Diversity, and Participation. She also mentioned that for the first time in the history of the

Council of Europe the Secretary General was re-elected for a new term in office. Moreover, all the organogram of the Directorate for Democratic Citizenship and Participation was finally filled, with the appointment of Mr Jean-Christoph Bas as Director, and of Ms Antje Rothmund as Head of Youth Department. Medlinska referred then to two events that had taken place: the Global Forum on Youth Policies, organised by the United Nations in co-operation, inter alia, with the Council of Europe, and the World Forum for Democracy, which in 2014 focused on the role of young people in revitalising democracy.

As for what concerns the work of the **EU-CoE youth partnership**, Ms Medlinska mentioned the activities and initiatives that had been undertaken, with special stress on that PEYR members were and would be involved to a great extent, not only as knowledge producers but also as multipliers of the EU-CoE youth partnership's results.

She also invited all those present to register in the EKCYP expert database on the revamped EU-CoE youth partnership website, so that their competences could be shared and valued.

Concerning, more specifically, the work of the PEYR, it was made clear that the Terms of Reference (ToR) had not been approved by the two Partner Institutions yet, but would be circulated as soon as available.

The EKCYP correspondents and PEYR members were then invited to indicate their availability for contributing to the work of the EU-CoE youth partnership, in particular in relation to its priorities.

At a later stage of the meeting, PEYR members gathered and shared about their professional experience and areas of expertise, exchanging their views on how to ensure a fruitful and successful cooperation.

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