

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

9th Meeting of Correspondents to the European Knowledge Centre for Youth Policy

1st October 2013,
European Youth Centre Budapest

Report

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

PROGRAMME

09h00 JOINT Opening of the meeting and welcome by the European Commission and the Council of Europe (Karin Lopatta-Loibl, European Commission and Olaf Köndgen, Council of Europe)

Updates from both institutions on new developments and current discussions for the future of their partnership in the field of youth

Update from the side of the EU-CoE youth partnership team

09h45 Coffee break

10h15 Separate (PEYR/EKCYP) stock taking evaluation and recommendations for the future

11h45 JOINT reporting and concluding session

12h30 Lunch

PARTICIPANTS

PEYR members:

Manfred ZENTNER (Austria), Filipp COUSSEE (Belgium), Siyka KOVACHEVA (Bulgaria), Dunja POTOČNIK (Croatia), Marti TARU (Estonia), Bence SÁGVÁRI (Hungary), Maurice DEVLIN (Ireland), Barbara Giovana BELLO (Italy), Ilze TRAPINCIERE (LATVIA), Charles BERG (Luxembourg), Lihong HUANG (NORWAY), Ewa KRZAKLEWSKA (Poland), Magda NICO (Portugal), Sladjana PETKOVIC (Serbia), Robert THOMSON (Switzerland), Kateryna SHALAYEVA (Ukraine), Leena SUURPÄÄ (Finland), Beatrix NIEMEYER (Germany) and Erik ÅMNA (Sweden).

EKCYP correspondents: David HAYRAPETYAN (Armenia), Manfred ZENTNER (Austria), Tineke VAN DE WALLE, Lieve BRADT (both Belgium), Petyo KANEV (Bulgaria), Marti TARU (Estonia), Minna KIETÄVÄINEN (Finland), Solange FOURCOUX (France), Edit VERES (Hungary), Maurice DEVLIN (Ireland), Gints KLASONS (Latvia), Andreas HEINEN (Luxembourg), Miriam TEUMA (Malta), Bojana BULATOVIĆ (Montenegro), Lihong HUANG (NORWAY), Ewa KRZAKLEWSKA (Poland), Carlos PEREIRA, Sorin MITULESCO, Jana VLAJKOVIC (Serbia) Jana MIHALIKOVA (Slovak Republic), Natalia DIAZ SANTIN (Spain), Idah KLINT (Sweden), Tulin SENER (Turkey), Alexander KIRKOVSKI (The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) and Katheryna PIKHOTA (Ukraine).

European Commission:

Karin LOPATTA-LOIBL ,DG EAC, Youth Policy Unit

Council of Europe:

Olaf KONDGEN, Executive Director of the European Youth Centre Budapest

EU-CoE youth partnership team:

Marta MEDLINSKA, Philipp BOETZELEN, Srd KISEVIC, Hanjo SCHILD

Meeting report

I. Updates

Representatives from Council of Europe and the European Commission underlined the relevance of the EU-CoE youth partnership team, specifically concerning the production and provision of knowledge on youth. It is envisaged that the partnership will play an increasing role in this respect in the future. A short update was then given on the respective developments in both institutions. Among other elements, the publication of the Council of Europe youth policy review on Ukraine (expected for late Autumn) as well as the forthcoming study on value of youth work launched by the European Commission were mentioned.

Regarding the future of the EU-CoE youth partnership, Marta Medlinska referred to the ongoing positive discussions between the two institutions and said that further details would be known following the Partnership Management Board in the next month or two.

Philipp Boetzelen and Srd Kisevic informed on some of the main achievements of EKCYP and PEYR respectively since the last meeting in 2012.

II. Separate (PEYR/EKCYP) stock taking evaluation and recommendations for the future

EKCYP correspondents

The EKCYP correspondents met afterwards separately and exchanged in working groups on their positions vis-à-vis three key questions related to the future of EKCYP. Results of the discussions were then presented to the representative of the European Commission in a joint session with members of the Pool of European Youth Researchers.

A) Added value of EKCYP correspondents network and proposals for improvements

Positive points:

- EKCYP country information stimulates the production of youth knowledge on the national level, contact between country correspondents and within a country, also across policy domains;
- EKCYP is the only place where information on national youth policies in countries around Europe is provided systematically and in English;
- EKCYP enables correspondents to get in contact with (and learn from) correspondents in other countries and with youth related professionals in their own country (including from other sectors such as welfare etc.).

Challenges (from the providers/correspondents perspective):

- Depending on the affiliation of the correspondent relations with relevant state administrations are sometimes complicated and there exist different opinions on information to be reported on national youth policies.
- Ensuring government/administration's support for the correspondents' work by providing information which is relevant to Member States.

Improvements to be considered:

- Provide further and more updated information on national youth policies to allow for country comparisons and peer learning;
- Ensure transparency concerning information contained in questionnaires and country sheets: sources should always be mentioned.

B) Proposal of EKCYP thematic tutors to edit and update thematic sections

Positive:

- Assigning the responsibility for updates of thematic sections to external experts (PEYR, correspondents or other) would be an efficient way to provide updated thematic information in an ongoing basis;
- Thematic tutors could consult EKCYP-correspondents related to their tasks and support thematic activities of the EU-CoE youth partnership;

- By giving a face to knowledge provided in thematic section visibility of EKCYP would be enhanced.

Negative:

- Creation of an additional structure should be avoided.

C) What could EKCYP learn from initiatives at the national level (without neglecting the complexity of the European level)?

- Communication between research and policy is facilitated by the presence of a clear mandate regarding the commissioning of research on the national level;
- Strong internet presence including interactive communication channels and video streaming;
- Additional knowledge dissemination tools such as electronic newsletters and dedicated internet fora.

Pool of European Youth Researchers (PEYR)

The feedback of Pool members concerning three main groups of challenges for the future:

Future of PEYR

- Reflect on whether PEYR should have a group identity? A steering group? Should PEYR members sometimes work in small groups / teams on a single topic or issue? This would allow for interdisciplinary input.
- PEYR's role in the policy cycle needs to be better formulated. It would be useful to involve PEYR by partner institutions in their "kitchen talks" when policies/initiatives are discussed at the very beginning.
- Partner institutions might want to prioritise PEYR for certain projects over private companies/consultancies.
- Achieve better link between PEYR and NGOs/practitioners.
- There should be one specific topic for annual meetings (e.g. migration) again to allow for interdisciplinary input.
- PEYR numbers should remain constant, but besides the Pool there could be another group of external experts ('satellites') who can contribute ad hoc.
- Additional expertise is needed in the Pool (IT – internet/media topics, migration, environment...).
- There is a need to renew the group, but also allow for continuity. Perhaps half of the Pool should be changed?
- Geographical coverage should remain wide. Having researchers from Eastern Europe, as well as those who can speak French (for North Africa co-operation) is an advantage.

Added value and better research – policy linkage

- Policy can benefit from applied research;
- Both policy-makers and researchers should learn from each other;
- PEYR members also need to learn from each other's expertise;
- We should aim to increase intra-institutional knowledge on PEYR (inform different EU DG's and Council of Europe departments of the value of PEYR), but also inform national ministries and other actors;
- More feedback should be given to PEYR on how partner institutions use their expertise;
- PEYR could become part of Structured Dialogue and it could be used for interpretation of indicators and statistics.

Personal satisfaction – How to better put my expertise to use

Largely positive evaluation:

- There is more communication between members on research projects;
- Open calls have been introduced;
- Internal workings – encounters and exchanges – are most beneficial.

Things to improve:

- Further increase communication between members by developing PEYR brief (not on policy developments, but research focused);
- Achieve cooperation with Pool of Trainers (Council of Europe);
- Outside impression of PEYR – its input is not visible enough; Pool should be more proactive, more visible in the partner institutions and its structures;
- PEYR members' expertise in international comparative research has not been used enough.

III Joint Reporting and concluding session

Feedbacks of both groups were shared in the concluding session with EU-CoE youth partnership, the representative of the European Commission and EKCYP correspondents. PEYR members in this session voiced some additional remarks:

- PEYR coordinator should be given a more proactive mandate to promote Pool internally within the EU and Council of Europe institutions/departments.
- The EU-CoE youth partnership can be seen as a good model of inter-institutional cooperation also for other sectors (e.g. education) and we should make links to such other fields of cooperation.
- PEYR should be more involved in the drafting of EKCYP questionnaires.
- Both PEYR and EKCYP need to be more promoted towards the Member States.
- The follow up and specific use made of knowledge should be made more transparent by the institutions using the EU-CoE youth partnership tools.