

Youth Partnership

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



Report of the 12th EKCYP Annual Meeting

Key Decisions

- It was agreed that in 2017, EKCYP would focus on gathering knowledge on youth work and developing a general questionnaire on the situation of youth work. As part of the contribution to local and municipal youth work, EKCYP will collect information in early 2017. The theme of youth work is not part of EU Youth Wiki, but it is a common theme for the work of the two partner institutions and there is a need to gather knowledge on the situation with youth work across the Member States. Information collected will also feed into the next European Youth work convention, to be held in 2020 possibly by Germany.
- Countries that are not part of EU Youth Wiki would be invited to update the country sheets, should there be any changes. This update will not be required of correspondents participating in both projects and the decision will be left at their discretion. In addition, new countries will be invited to provide "Youth Wiki light" chapters. There was a proposal to task an expert to look at overlaps in information requests and how the presentation of the questionnaire outcomes could be simplified and transformed into more user-friendly material.
- EKCYP would continue to respond to ad-hoc requests for information from CDEJ, as part of Youth Department's flexible and rapid support system for Member States. The last question on funding of youth political parties was circulated to the network and answers are still being collected.
- Finally, EKCYP would continue to gather knowledge on discriminated and excluded groups of young people and contribute to analysis of behaviours and trends, to be analysed and further explored in EU-CoE youth partnership meetings (for example, but not exhaustingly, LGBTQI, migration, tolerance vs. hate speech, human rights and participation...).
- Where possible, EKCYP correspondents will work with PEYR members in analysing the outcomes of the information gathered. Some PEYR members would be co-opted to be part of EKCYP so synergies between the two groups continue to be strengthened.
- The EU-CoE youth partnership proposed to develop the knowledge broker capacity of EKCYP in the future, so that national knowledge dialogues develop, where correspondents reach out proactively to national youth stakeholders and ensure that youth research contributes directly to evidence-based policy and practice. Good practices and peer-learning will continue to be the main methods in the meetings themselves. The 2017 work programme would include a proposed seminar on this topic, which should develop guidance on how to put in place such dialogues and develop better the role of the correspondents.

- Overall the working methods were assessed as positive, with request for more regular information dissemination from the EU-CoE youth partnership team. Similarly, correspondents were invited by peers to share information more regularly and the youth partnership team should disseminate knowledge shared by the correspondents.
- Website updates were judged positively with the profile of the correspondents online, but the website remains insufficiently adapted for general use. The youth partnership team explained the challenges of fitting into an institutional framework and informed on continuing to explore options of improving the website.

Proceedings

1. EKCYP contribution to the 2016 Work Plan

Tanya Basarab, research and youth policy officer responsible for EKCYP presented the main contributions of EKCYP in 2016 as well as all the follow up to 2015 EKCYP decisions and the youth partnership work plan.

The work programme, EKCYP contributions in 2016 Work Plan and main outcomes of the evaluation were also circulated in advance to the correspondents. There were no specific questions. Correspondents highlighted the importance of having regular communication and information outreach from the EU-CoE youth partnership team. The responses to ad-hoc request for information from CDEJ was briefly discussed.

2. Evaluation of the joint research meeting with PEYR

The Annual Meeting followed a joint meeting with the Pool of European Youth Researchers focusing on research gaps, needs and trends in the following areas (identified in advance through a questionnaire):

- Learning Mobility
- Participation and e-participation
- Transitions
- Bridges with formal education, vocational education and training and unemployment
- Young migrants and refugees, and the role of youth work
- Building national knowledge networks on youth, youth policy and youth work.

Antje Rothmund, Head of Council of Europe Youth Department and Marta Medlinska, Co-ordinator of the EU-CoE youth partnership addressed the two groups by visio-conference. EKCYP members appreciated highly the day's exchange, the quality of the inputs and the importance of working together with PEYR members, as well as the contents being relevant for their work at national level. A separate report on the day's exchange is prepared.

Some external participants in the joint meeting were also invited to participate and contribute at the EKCYP annual meeting.

3. EKCYP and EU Youth Wiki – developments and perspectives

Giulia Paolini from the EACEA presented the state of play of the EU Youth Wiki project and Susanne Klinzing and Tiina Ekman (both EKCYP and EU Youth Wiki correspondents) shared their experiences and challenges of contributing to both.

Correspondents discussed in groups the implications of contributing to two project with similar expectations, but different financial, technical and human resources base. There was an agreement that for 2017, when EU Youth Wiki is expected to be launched, information on country youth policy would not be updated by the correspondents belonging to the two projects. A further assessment will be done, based on the evolution of the two initiatives.

In addition, correspondents discussed the differences between the projects, the challenges they face (for those involved in both projects) and the added value of EKCYP, information that needed to be made more clear with the government representatives in CDEJ, since some countries begin questioning their involvement with the two initiatives.

EKCYP correspondents see the need to keep the group going in its form, which acts as a think tank and allows for a bottom-up peer learning and exchange, identification of new themes, supports development and dissemination of knowledge on youth, on youth policy and on specific thematic areas (such as inequalities, social inclusion and young refugees – the themes to which EKCYP correspondents contributed in 2016). There is also an added value in having a broad group, involving almost all the Council of Europe Member States, which allows for capacity-building and networking opportunities specifically on youth research and knowledge development. Another added value of EKCYP is the flexibility with which it can collect and analyse data on themes that end on the political agenda due to broader circumstances (ex: refugees, migration, specific aspects of youth work etc.).

The challenge of correspondent's independence/discretion in collecting and submitting information vs. validation by the national ministry of the information gathered was discussed again in 2016. Some correspondents highlighted that questions on positions and initiatives with regards to young refugees were viewed highly political in their countries and made the process of contribution quite difficult.

It was also agreed that the EU-CoE youth partnership would launch a "Wiki light" contribution process from countries not part of Erasmus + programme and, thus, not participating in the EU Youth Wiki project directly. In 2016 four countries are preparing information on the first chapter of Wiki light, including Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia. Two of the selected experts are EKCYP correspondents and they had the opportunity to exchange with EKCYP/Youth Wiki correspondents on the expected process, work and contributions.

4. Results of the peer review of the EKCYP country sheets

Two PEYR members, Dunja Potocnik and Adina Calafateanu, were tasked with reviewing all country information in 2016, providing individual feedback to correspondents and identifying common learning points for better submissions the following year. The experts presented a detailed proposal of improving country information with more clear guidance on referencing, on providing more exhaustive/complete information and on following Council of Europe writing guide. There was a difference between the expectation of the experts, who work with the country information and proposed further detailing of subthemes such as urban/rural; education levels, history of youth policy/work etc as well as keeping the submissions to under 30 pages, on the one hand, and the correspondents who are often limited in their capacity, resources and mandate to provide such information, on the other hand.

The experts reminded of the glossary on the youth partnership website as well as of other databases and reference tools that can be used by correspondents when updating their country sheets. Bilateral feedback and exchange with each correspondent would continue after the meeting until all country sheets are updated and published online. Overall, it was encouraging that most correspondents updated the background information on youth policy in their countries.

5. Decisions and plans for 2017

It was agreed that in 2017, EKCYP would focus on gathering knowledge on youth work and developing a general questionnaire on the situation of youth work. As part of the contribution to local and municipal youth work, EKCYP will collect information in early 2017. The theme of youth work is not part of EU Youth Wiki, but it is a common theme for the work of the two partner institutions and there is a need to gather knowledge on the situation with youth work across the Member States. Information collected will also feed into the next European Youth work convention, to be held in 2020 possibly by Germany.

Countries that are not part of EU Youth Wiki would be invited to update the country sheets, should there be any changes. This update will not be required of correspondents participating in both projects and the decision will be left at their discretion. In addition, new countries will be invited to provide "Youth Wiki light" chapters. There was a proposal to task an expert to look at overlaps in information requests and how the presentation of the questionnaire outcomes could be simplified and transformed into more user-friendly material.

EKCYP would continue to respond to ad-hoc requests for information from CDEJ, as part of Youth Department's flexible and rapid support system for Member States. The last question on funding of youth political parties was circulated to the network and answers are still being collected.

Finally, EKCYP would continue to gather knowledge on discriminated and excluded groups of young people and contribute to analysis of behaviours and trends, to be analysed and further explored in EU-CoE youth partnership meetings (for example, but not exhaustingly, LGBTQI, migration, tolerance vs. hate speech, human rights and participation...).

Where possible, EKCYP correspondents will work with PEYR members in analysing the outcomes of the information gathered. Some PEYR members would be co-opted to be part of EKCYP so synergies between the two groups continue to be strengthened.

The EU-CoE youth partnership proposed to develop the knowledge broker capacity of EKCYP in the future, so that national knowledge dialogues develop, where correspondents reach out proactively to national youth stakeholders and ensure that youth research contributes directly to evidence-based policy and practice. Good practices and peer-learning will continue to be the main methods in the meetings themselves. The 2017 work programme would include a proposed seminar on this topic, which should develop guidance on how to put in place such dialogues and develop better the role of the correspondents.

Overall the working methods were assessed as positive, with request for more regular information dissemination from the EU-CoE youth partnership team. Similarly, correspondents were invited by peers to share information more regularly.

Website updates were judged positively with the profile of the correspondents online, but the website remains insufficiently adapted for general use. The youth partnership team explained the challenges of fitting into an institutional framework and informed on continuing to explore options of improving the website.

6. Wrap up

Correspondents expressed deep acknowledgements for his contribution to building the Knowledge Centre to Hanjo Schild who had been there from the beginning of EKCYP.

An online evaluation questionnaire was sent to the correspondents following the meeting.

More information related to the meeting can be found on the [meeting page](#).

Annex 1: Programme of the joint and of EKCY P meeting s

Wed 07/09/16	<u>Joint PEYR – EKCY P Meeting with experts' inputs</u>
9:00 – 10:45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opening of the joint meeting by the team of the youth partnership; - Round of introductions – name and role - Introduction by Partner Institutions via visio: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Ms Antje Rothemund, Council of Europe o Ms Karin Lopatta-Loibl, European Commission (tbc) o Welcome words from Marta Medlinska, EU-CoE youth partnership - Synergies and interaction between PEYR and EKCY P; - Expert inputs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Learning mobility – input by Soren Kristensen; o Participation and e-participation – inputs by Tomaž Deželan and Kerstin Franzl, EUth digital participation project representative; o Bridges with formal education, vocational education and training and unemployment – input by, Pink Hilverdink (EKCY P); o Transitions - inputs by Ken Roberts and Helena Helve. o Young migrants and refugee, and the role of youth work – input by Barbara Bello, PEYR.
10:45 – 11:15	Break
11:15 – 13:00	Parallel thematic groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Learning Mobility - Participation and e-participation - Transitions
13:00 – 14:30	Lunch
14:30 – 16:00	Parallel Thematic Groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bridges with formal education, vocational education and training and unemployment - Young migrants and refugees, and the role of youth work - Building national knowledge networks on youth, youth policy and youth work
16:00 – 16:30	Break
16:30 – 17:30	Open space (topics to be defined during the meeting)
17:30 – 18:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presentation of results of thematic groups - Discussion - Conclusions and closing
Thu 08/09/16	Departures of PEYR Members
<u>Annual Meeting of EKCY P Correspondents</u>	
9:00 – 10:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opening of the meeting by the youth partnership team; - Presentation of participants; - Q&A on youth partnership work programme, circulated beforehand; - EKCY P contributions in 2016 work plan; - Updates on evaluation follow-up and website changes
10:00 – 11:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Progress of EU Youth Wiki - input by Giulia Paolini, EACEA, via visio - Good practice exchange – Youth Wiki/EKCY P correspondents share about their work (input by Susanne Klinzing and Tiina Ekman; - Exchange in small groups
11:00 – 11:30	Break
11:30 – 13:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Update on country sheets – overview– input from Tanya Basarab - Features to review and add in EKCY P country sheets – input from Dunja Potocnik and Adina Calafateanu; - Peer-learning and brainstorming – improving the country sheets structure and content.
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch

14:00 – 15:30	Discussion regarding: - Possible developments; - Visibility and impact of EKCYP at national level; - Complementarity with Youth Wiki; - Working methods and collaboration with youth partnership team.
15:30 – 16:00	- Wrapping up, main decisions and follow-up
	Departures of EKCYP correspondents.

Annex 2: List of Participants to the EKCYP and Joint meeting

ID	Name	Surname	Role	PEYR	Joint Meeting	EKCYP
1	Airi-Alina	ALLASTE	Expert		X	
2	Mohammed	ALSAUD	Expert		X	X
3	Ondřej	BÁRTA	Expert		X	X
4	Tanya	BASARAB	EU-CoE youth partnership	X	X	X
5	Barbara Giovanna	BELLO	PEYR Member	X	X	
6	Charles	BERG	PEYR Member	X	X	
7	Oerjan	BERGAN	EKCYP Correspondent		X	X
8	Valgerður Þórunn	BJARNADOTTIR	EKCYP Correspondent		X	X
9	Adina Marina	CALAFATEANU	PEYR Member	X	X	X
10	Davide	CAPECCHI	EU-CoE youth partnership	X	X	X
11	Rati	CHEISHVILI	Expert		X	
12	Eleftheria	CHRISTOFOROU	EKCYP Correspondent		X	X
13	Nuala	CONNOLLY	PEYR Member	X	X	
14	Lucio	D'AMORE	EKCYP Correspondent		X	X
15	Deniz Günce	DEMİRHİSAR	Expert	X	X	
16	Julie	DEWILDE	EKCYP Correspondent		X	X
17	Tomaz	DEZELAN	Expert		X	
18	Tiina	EKMAN	EKCYP Correspondent		X	X
19	Kerstin	FRANZL	Expert		X	
20	Yuliia	GALUSTIAN	Expert		X	
21	David	HAYRAPETYAN	PEYR Member	X	X	X
22	Helena	HELVE	Expert	X	X	
23	Pink	HILVERDINK	EKCYP Correspondent		X	X
24	Lihong	HUANG	PEYR Member	X	X	
25	Jasmin	JASAREVIC	EKCYP Correspondent		X	X
26	Aleksandar	KIRKOVSKI	EKCYP Correspondent		X	X
27	Susanne	KLINZING	EKCYP Correspondent		X	X
28	Siyka	KOVACHEVA	PEYR Member	X	X	
29	Marko	KOVACIC	EKCYP Correspondent		X	X
30	Soren	KRISTENSEN	Expert		X	
31	Ewa	KRZAKLEWSKA	PEYR Member	X	X	
32	Sofia	LAINE	PEYR Member	X	X	
33	Gulden Demet	LÜKÜSLÜ	Expert	X	X	
34	Karla	MALM	EKCYP Correspondent		X	X

35	Ranko	MARKUS	Expert		X	
36	Zdeňka	MASKOVA	EKCYP Correspondent		X	X
37	Elisabeth-Jane	MILNE	PEYR Member	X	X	
38	Sorin	MITULESCU	EKCYP Correspondent		X	X
39	Lorise	MOREAU	EKCYP Correspondent		X	X
40	Magda	NICO	PEYR Member	X	X	
41	Anna	OSTRIKOVA	EKCYP Correspondent		X	X
42	Janaina Emeline	PAISLEY	EKCYP Correspondent		X	X
43	Maria-Carmen	PANTEA	PEYR Member	X	X	
44	Bojana	PEROVIC	EKCYP Correspondent		X	X
45	Sladjana	PETKOVIC	PEYR Member	X	X	
46	Boris	POPIVANOV	Expert		X	X
47	Dunja	POTOCNIK	PEYR Member - EKCYP Correspondent	X	X	X
48	Komalsingh	RAMBAREE	Expert		X	
49	Kenneth	ROBERTS	Expert		X	
50	Bence	SAGVARI	PEYR Member	X	X	
51	Andrei	SALIKAU	EKCYP Correspondent		X	X
52	Hanjo	SCHILD	EU-CoE youth partnership	X	X	X
53	Tulin	SENER KILINC	EKCYP Correspondent		X	X
54	Pau	SERRACANT	Expert		X	X
55	Nela	SLADOJEVIC	Expert	X	X	
56	Dragan	STANOJEVIC	Expert		X	
57	Szilvia	SZOMBATHELYI	EKCYP Correspondent		X	
58	Marti	TARU	PEYR Member - EKCYP Correspondent	X	X	X
59	Robert	THOMSON	PEYR Member	X	X	
60	Smiljka	TOMANOVIC	PEYR Member	X	X	
61	Nino	TSERETELI	EKCYP Correspondent		X	X
62	Krsto	VUKADINOVIC	EKCYP Correspondent		X	X
63	Manfred	ZENTNER	PEYR Member - EKCYP Correspondent	X	X	X