

The Partnership Programme: Future Perspectives

The present partnership agreement (the second Covenant) on European Youth Worker Training between the Council of Europe and the European Commission is coming to an end in September of this year. The concrete programme offer of the new partnership agreement still needs to be finalised, but the perspectives are clear.

Continuing the partnership is considered a priority by both institutions and work towards a new agreement is under way. The Commission is currently reviewing its training strategy and wants the partnership to be a major part of it.

Training, support and visibility within a long-term framework

The main aim of the partnership remains to promote active European citizenship and civil society by giving an impetus to the training of youth leaders and trainers working within a European dimension.

The institutions would like to set up a longer-term framework contract which will guarantee the stability of the co-operation but also allow for flexibility in defining the concrete programme offer. To begin with, a plan is drawn up for a three-year period (the third Covenant). Concrete budget calculations and content descriptions are now being developed for the coming year (July 2000 - June 2001), to be followed by a second period of two years (July 2001 - June 2003).

It is intended to develop a coherent programme which should consist of two main strands: a training offer and visibility and support materials.

Training offer

The training offer should aim to train youth leaders and youth workers to act as multipliers and to empower young people to participate in society and to create a Europe based on common values. It is envisaged to give emphasis to two main types of training.

Training courses on European citizenship could have as their main objectives to integrate the European dimension into the lives of young people at local and regional level and to involve them in the building of Europe. These courses might focus on the concept of citizenship in its variety of expressions and work on the levels of knowledge, attitudes and skills, especially those necessary to develop quality youth projects with a European dimension.

Long-term training courses for trainers could focus on capacity building of trainers in the youth field to enable them to prepare, run and evaluate training activities competently at multilateral level. These courses might be composed of different thematic modules, open to trainers with previous training experience and willing to act as trainers in multilateral training activities after the training, especially with NGOs, National Agencies and the European institutions. The different modules would stand on their own, but be offered as one entity. They would be validated separately, but participants would be expected to participate in all of them and get a full certification by the two institutions upon completion of all the modules.

Visibility and support materials

Training materials, Coyote, publicity materials and the web-site should be further developed to stimulate the exchange of information and

networking, to support the training offer and to enhance the visibility of the partnership.

4 Training Kits (T-Kits) are being produced under the present partnership agreement (see below). Further T-kits on other subjects are planned to be published regularly (three T-kits per year). Envisaged themes for the next T-kits are How to Plan and Run an International Training Course, Citizenship Education and Voluntary Service Projects.

The institutions intend to continue to issue Coyote twice a year. Its web version should be revised to create possibilities for a more active and spontaneous exchange between readers. Coyote on paper, Coyote on the web and Coyote supplements should be further developed promoting the inter-activity between the different tools of the partnership.

Bi-annual Conferences on European Youth Worker Training and Citizenship are envisaged in order to encourage greater recognition of the non-formal education sector and promote non-formal education practices and political recognition of European youth worker training through the partnership programme.

Associating the institutions' partners with the development of the partnership

It is planned to create a 'Curriculum Development team', composed of trainers, representatives of the training resource centres of the National Agencies, experts and representatives of the institutions, which would further develop the concept of the training offer and the quality standards to be applied for it.

Finally, Trainers' Forums are foreseen to associate trainers, working with the institutions, with the development of the partnership programme, to ensure a better co-operation with them and increased understanding among trainers of the role of the two institutions in the development of European youth worker training towards European citizenship.

The above programme proposals will be further developed during the course of this year. The new partnership programme activities should take place from the beginning of 2001. Details and application procedures for the training courses will be sent, in due course, to all partners working with the institutions. They will also be published in the next issue of Coyote.

Four T-Kits on the subjects of Intercultural Learning, Project Development, Language Learning and Organisational Management will be published this June and also put on the web. Copies can then be obtained from the European Youth Centre in Strasbourg.

