

# EUROPEAN KNOWLEDGE CENTRE FOR YOUTH POLICY

UPDATE

WWW.YOUTH-KNOWLEDGE.NET

by Bryony Hoskins

Have you ever been stuck trying to find the latest information on young people in a country or across a group of countries in Europe? Are you trying to run training courses on a topics but do not have the necessary knowledge? Do you feel you waste time by searching across many disparate websites? Do you get frustrated that you have to subscribe to particular journals in order to read one or two articles? If these experience sound familiar I am pleased to inform you that help is on the way in the form of the European Knowledge Centre for Youth Policy or EKC. [www.youth-knowledge.net](http://www.youth-knowledge.net)

The EKC is a 'state of the art' knowledge management system that will, for the first time, provide the European youth field with a single entry point to retrieve accurate up-to-date research based information in a user friendly manner. It was developed within the framework of the Youth Research Partnership between the Council of Europe and European Commission. The EKC is a tool for the implementation of the White Paper on Youth and in particular the European Commission common objectives on a Better Understanding of Youth and the Council of Europe monitoring of youth policy. The concept for the tool is to promote evidence based policy making and practice and provide a central place for the exchange of information and dialogue across the youth field.

The EKC is supported by a European wide network of European Knowledge Centre correspondents who were nominated by the member states ministries. In the pilot project 15 countries were selected to participate and in 2006 all European countries will be involved. The correspondents answer questionnaires directly into the EKC on the topics of Youth Policy, Participation, Information, Voluntary Activities and a Better Understanding of Youth. The answers can be found in the core content of the EKC which has a specific search mechanism that allows the user to search the information by multiple countries for one question and one year and for multiple years for one question and one country. There is a glossary to help with the terms used. The type of answers you will find are both quantitative (e.g. the numbers of young people who belong to youth organisations) and

qualitative (e.g. an overview of the youth policy in a country). In order to find more in-depth information on young people there is a powerful searchable database of documents from research, policy and practice and pages of background information. Here you can use the search features such as key words to help find the type of document you are looking for. You can find the latest news from on youth related topics. When you are registered you will receive news according to your profile which you can keep updated. There are many other features such as an ABC guide to youth policy, expert database, examples of good practice on participation (working in collaboration with the CoE charter on participation) and online applications for research seminars.

## ► *How you can be involved*

Anyone can register into the EKC and all registered users can participate in the development of the European Knowledge Centre by contributing information. You can send in news through the 'submit a story' feature. You can submit examples of good practice on the topic of youth participation so that other people can learn from your experience. You can add to the database of documents by uploading texts on youth research, policy and practice that are relevant to the youth field. All entries go through a validation process to ensure basic quality standards. You can also comment on the EKC tool and discuss what you think about the evidence provided in the discussion forums.

## ► *The Launch*

The first launch of the EKC pilot project will be during the Luxembourg Presidency Conference 16-18 June on the topic of a Better Understanding of Youth. The second launch will be at the Council of Europe's Youth Ministers conference, September 2005, Budapest. Future developments of the European knowledge Centre will include the sharing of data with other knowledge management systems of interest to the youth field and the developments of virtual communities to enhance networks and dialogues between actors in the youth field.

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