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EKCC

European Knowledge Centre

where we are and where we are going

BECOMING "THE CENTRAL PLACE FOR THE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AND DIALOGUE ACROSS THE YOUTH FIELD"

► Launch

The first successful launch of the European Knowledge Centre for Youth Policy took place during the Luxembourg Presidency Conference 16-18 June 2005 on the topic of "Organising dialogues, exchanges and networks between youth field actors for a better Understanding of Youth". The second launch was performed at the Council of Europe's Youth Ministers conference, September 2005, in Budapest. Undoubtedly the EKCYP has become really famous now – has it really? The answer is twofold: it is widely known that the EKCYP exists (and people seem to like its "style"), but it is not yet used by a sufficient number of persons.

► Review

To check what has been done so far and how the present site could be improved, the content as well as the technical infrastructure were assessed. For the content side of the evaluation several internal meetings were held and a Quality Group was set up, composed of national correspondents to the EKCYP, researchers and policy makers.

And? Well, there are still some steps to go on the EKCYP's way to becoming "*the central place for the exchange of information and dialogue across the youth field*". Firstly this is about consolidation of the present features, specifically:

The **core content** (*key topics*). Here, EKCYP-correspondents (16 in the first pilot phase and about 30 in 2006) from all over Europe feed data on the priority themes of both the European Commission's White Paper on Youth and the subsequent common objectives and the Council of Europe's monitoring of youth policy. It was agreed that these should be more user-friendly and the core information should be reviewed on its usability. To give an example, it is already possible to compare -let's say, the number of journals that publish youth research in different countries. But this information is available only in numbers. Graphs would make quantitative data clearer and will be available soon.

The database. Clicking on "Search the database" provides all kinds of documents. But up to now these are mainly linked to the Council of Europe and European Commission. We need more "knowledge" and from different backgrounds. For instance the paper you wrote once for xy: just register and go for uploading a paper (<http://www.youth-knowledge.net/INTEGRATION/EKC/Register/>).

The glossary, containing an exact definition of expressions that are widely (and differently) used in the youth field, represents a valuable tool but it is far from being complete and has to be extended.

Surely there is more to say about consolidation of the present features of www.youth-knowledge.net. Do not hesitate to share your opinion with us, there is a **feedback section** (which still has to be tested and further developed)!

► Pilot phase for an open discussion forum

Secondly it is about opening up the instrument and active participation of more users: tools such as the **discussion forum** would highly profit if access to them is eased and participation of all possible groups of users fostered. This could mean, for example: to allow discussions on all kinds of issues having to do with youth and not restricting these to pre-established topics. Posting comments without being required to go through a complex registration procedure, and so on. Ideally there would be a virtual place where interested people could upload articles and papers and discuss imminent issues (like the unrests in France some months ago, for example or in the future on the key topics of the new Council of Europe campaign All Different – All Equal). But: how would such a **participative webpage** function? And: would it meet the interests of the users' community? We will run a pilot phase annexed to the EKCYP to find answers to these questions. Complementary to the core content of the EKCYP and the **background knowledge**, where (in most cases) "official knowledge" is being stored, the pilot phase would constitute a bottom-up tool for the communicative creation and dissemination of knowledge.

We are looking forward to discussing the development of www.youth-knowledge.net with you! And once again, don't forget to visit the feedback section.

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