

Youth Partnership

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



EUROPEAN UNION



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Introduction into Speakers and Facilitators

Keynote speakers

Ólöf Thórhildur ÓLAFSDÓTTIR, Director of Democratic Citizenship and Participation of the Council of Europe, began her professional career in 1982 after having studied literature and history in France (doctorat de 3e cycle). From 1982 to 1987 she taught French literature at the University of Iceland in Reykjavik. She joined the Secretariat of the Council of Europe in January 1988 as Administrative Officer in the Division of Historic Heritage and was Secretary to the Committee on Culture, Education and the Media of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe from 1990 to 1993.

In 1993 she was promoted to Head of the Division of Equality between Women and Men in the Directorate General of Human Rights of the Council of Europe, a post which she held until summer 2002 when she moved to the Directorate of Education and Languages to work as Head of Division for Citizenship and Human Rights Education. She was promoted to Head of Department of School and Out-of-School Education in the same Directorate in October 2002 and has held the post of Director from 1 December 2010 to 1 October 2011, at which date she was nominated Director of Democratic Citizenship and Participation, responsible for both youth and education issues.

Luisella Pavan-Woolfe is the EU Ambassador and Head of Delegation to the Council of Europe. She was born in Trieste and graduated in Political Science from the University of Padova. She taught in that University, in the faculty of Anglo-American Law. Official in the European Commission since 1975, she has taken on various tasks for the Directorate General of Transport, Environment and Consumer Protection, and in the Secretariat General of the Commission. Before moving to the European External Action Service, she worked in the DG Employment, Social Affairs & Equal Opportunities where she held posts of Director for Antidiscrimination, Equality between women and men and Civil Society, Director of Horizontal and International Issues and Acting Director for the European Social Fund.

Rapporteur / facilitator

Dr Howard Williamson is Professor of European Youth Policy at the University of Glamorgan. He is also Affiliate Professor in Youth and Community Studies at the University of Malta. Previously he worked at the universities of Oxford, Cardiff and Copenhagen. He is a JNC qualified youth worker and has been involved in youth work practice for many years.

He has worked on a range of 'youth issues' such as learning, justice, substance misuse, exclusion and citizenship at European and national levels. Currently he co-ordinates the Council of Europe's international reviews of national youth policies. One of his more recent books is *The Milltown Boys Revisited* (Berg 2004), a follow-up study of a group of men he first wrote about when they were young offenders in the 1970s. He has also written a seminal text on youth policy in Europe: *Supporting Young People in Europe: principles, policy and practice* (Council of Europe Publishing 2001).

He has been a specialist adviser to the House of Commons Education Select Committee, and has sat on numerous governmental committees (for youth policy initiatives such as the New Deal for Young People in the UK, and Extending Entitlement in Wales) and was a Board member of the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales between 2001 and 2008. He is a Trustee of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, and was until recently Chair of the National Independent Advocacy Board for Wales. He was appointed CBE (Commander of the Order of the British Empire) in 2002 for services to young people.

Facilitators

Dr Terry Barber, Senior Lecturer, Community Education, University of Dundee

Terry is employed as a Senior Lecturer/Researcher within the Community Education Programme at the University of Dundee. He brings to the University some 18 years experience in the field of Community Learning and Development; with specialist experience in youth work and youth empowerment strategies. He has a particular interest in the exclusion of young people across Europe. Current research activity involves an exploration of formal, non-formal and informal methodologies in education and the potential influence of critical pedagogy in developing innovative learning approaches.

Elise Drouet: Board member of European Youth Forum (2013-2014), Master of sociology applied in international and territorial development (2006), European voluntary service in Kosovo in 2004 for Scouting, then Director of the Local democracy agency of Kosovo where it was the contact point about Youth in action programme for Salto Youth South East Europe. In 2009-2010, I was working in the French embassy of Bucharest, I was in charge of decentralised cooperation and European funds and programmes. Since 2011, I am European and Mediterranean officer in Scouts et Guides de France.

Simona Muršec is a devoted Human Rights Education trainer and facilitator of youth policy processes. As a member of the Pool of trainers and facilitators of the European Youth Forum, she is focused on Structured Dialogue and establishment of new National Youth Councils. She works inter-continental, with the focus on Africa-Europe Youth Cooperation and spaces of Global Education. Since Simona derives from being an activist within a youth organisation, she is currently representing the Slovenian National Youth Council in the Advisory Council on Youth of the Council of Europe, where she is following among other also the Roma Youth Action Plan and work related to local and regional participation of young people.

Jo Peeters has extensive experience in providing workshops and training courses for volunteers in youth work. He studied Social Work and participated in university courses on corporate training courses and on consultancy.

Since 2002 Jo is performing workshops and projects in the field of recognition of competences of volunteers. These workshops and projects take place at local, provincial, national, and European level. His extensive experience in this area is complemented by participation in training courses on Youth Pass, Assessment of non-formal learning, European Youth policies, and Project Management of European Projects.

Sladana Petković, member of the Pool of European Youth Researcher (PEYR) since 2010, experienced in Youth Work practice, Youth Research, and Youth Policy. She perceives crisis as an opportunity for growth and individual/social transformation. Passionate to contribute to addressing current challenges in the youth field in Europe, through promotion of better knowledge on youth and an evidence based approach to youth policy. Interested in social change, social cohesion, social innovation, transitional policies/changing role of youth, youth participation and citizenship, intercultural learning and diversity. Holding MA in Psychology, University of Belgrade, Serbia, and Joint European Master in Comparative Development, University of Trento/Italy, CORVINUS University, Budapest/Hungary, University of Regensburg, Germany and University of Ljubljana/Slovenia. Specialized in Developmental Youth Work and Social Education at the Jonkoping University/Sweden.

Speakers

Nadine Karbach works as a project coordinator in the youthpart project which is funded by the German Federal Ministry for Family, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth and executed by

IJAB, the International Youth Service of Germany. The project aims to explore new ways of e-participation between young people and decision-makers. That is done through software development, international exchange and local pilot projects.

Nadine holds a master degree in media and communication science. She has a long standing background in international youth work and is member of several expert groups on youth policy and digital media.

Laura Greta Marin: Romani woman from Romania, Laura studied Law, Psychology and Community Development. She is involved in the NGO sector since 1999, working in Social Inclusion programs addressed to Roma and other disadvantaged communities. She strongly believes that **education is the key for the Roma community advancement** and as OSF Fellow at Roma Policy Research Fellowship Laura develops a research on Educational Policies and their impact on the Roma Youth Social Inclusion.

Lucy Pyne joined the OECD in 2009 and works in the Local Economic and Employment Development (LEED) Programme. She initially worked in the LEED Trento Centre for Local Development, Italy, before transferring to the Paris office in early 2012. Her focus has been on employment, skills and local governance and local development. Her recent work includes the international Local Job Creation project which is looking at how employment and training agencies can assist in creating jobs, analysing how to create local youth employment strategies, and advising government on designing local skills strategies and strengthening local development. Lucy has prepared a number of recent OECD LEED working papers and publications, including “Queensland Skills Formation Strategies”, “Apprenticeships in London with Lessons from Germany”, *Breaking out of Policy Silos*, and *Ensuring Labour Market Success for Ethnic Minority and Immigrant Youth*. She completed a Masters in Regional and Urban Planning in UCD, a BA in European Studies in TCD, and before joining the OECD spent a number of years working in Moscow and Dublin in public and private sector organisations.

Lucille Rieux: I am 26 years old and I am currently the Secretary General of AEGEE-Europe. AEGEE is a European youth network of 13 000 members, which was created in 1985 to empower young people to become active citizens and to bring Europe closer to them. For the last 5 years, I have actively participated through this organisation, by developing local and European projects on the topic of youth participation and citizenship, as well as taking part in conferences, debates, training courses. Currently I am working in Brussels in the head office of the organisation, administrating and coordinating the network together with a team of 7 other volunteers, and representing the opinion and needs of young people toward institutions and other partners. We are closely following the youth and education sectors, striving for a better recognition of youth organisation's impact and work with and for young people.