

Council of Europe
Conseil de l'Europe



European Union
Union Européenne

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

symposium on recognition of youth work and non-formal learning

GETTING THERE...

14-16 november,
european youth centre,
strasbourg



CONCEPT PAPER
Final version

1. Background, aims, objectives and expected outcomes

1.1. Background of the Symposium

Since the endorsement of the White Paper 'A new impetus for European youth' adopted by the European Commission in November 2001, recognition of non-formal learning has become an important issue mentioned in the Europe 2020 strategy and its flagship initiative Youth on the Move, the 'EU Strategy for Youth – Investing and Empowering', the Council Resolution on youth work, and the Youth in Action Programme. Currently the European Commission is even reinforcing activities to further develop the validation of non-formal and informal learning by preparing a draft recommendation on this topic to be adopted by the Council by the first half of 2012.

In the Council of Europe, the promotion of non-formal education is a priority within its Agenda 2020 on youth policy, notably as a means to ensuring young people's access to education, training and working life. The Directorate of Youth and Sport works also on the development of quality standards in education and training activities and has published the European Portfolio for youth leaders and youth workers.

Recognition of non-formal education has been regularly on the agenda of European youth work since a first symposium was organised in 2000 by the Directorate of Youth and Sport of the Council of Europe, the above-mentioned European Portfolio for youth leaders and youth workers, the event 'Bridges for recognition' (SALTO Inclusion, 2011) and the first edition of the document *Pathways towards Validation and Recognition of Education, Training and Learning in the Youth Field*, to name a few.

Recognition of non-formal learning and youth work was the topic of various activities of the partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the field of Youth, amongst which stand the support of the conference on the same topic in Prague in 2008 as part of Czech EU Presidency as well as the Youth Work Convention in July 2010 in Ghent, organised under the Belgian EU Presidency.

A number of other stakeholders (such as the network of Youth in Action National Agencies and SALTO Resource Centres, European Youth Forum, Youthpass Advisory Group, etc) have expressed the need for a more coordinated approach at European level, supported by the partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the field of Youth.

As a first step, the working paper *Pathways 2.0 towards recognition of non-formal learning/education and of youth work in Europe* (hereinafter the 'Pathways paper') was updated by the EU-CoE youth partnership in cooperation with the European Commission, the Council of Europe, the European Youth Forum, the German National Agency for Youth in Action and SALTO Training and Cooperation Resource Centre. In the Pathways paper, ten elements of a renewed strategy for a better recognition of NFL/E in the youth field were identified.

As a follow-up and support to these initiatives, the Management Board of the EU-CoE youth partnership decided to organise a *Symposium on recognition of youth work and non-formal learning*, to be developed and implemented in co-operation with JUGEND für Europa, the German National Agency of the Youth in Action Programme, and the SALTO Training and Cooperation RC.

1.2. Aim

The Symposium aims at establishing a common ground for a medium and long-term coordinated strategy toward recognition of youth work and non-formal learning in Europe with the involvement of actors and stakeholders from the various sectors of policy concerned.

1.3. Objectives

- To discuss and reflect on the current realities and challenges of recognition of youth work and non-formal learning;
- To develop a common understanding of the milestones which led to such Symposium as well as to envision what needs to be achieved in a mid and long-term perspective;
- To link the different initiatives of the European Union (European Commission and Council of the European Union) and of the Council of Europe together with initiatives and processes of civil society and other actors to recognise and validate non-formal learning in the youth field as well as in the lifelong learning policy areas;
- To introduce and discuss the Pathways paper and to develop a plan of action of concrete measures and monitoring processes for its implementation;
- To issue a statement which will initiate a common European political process toward recognition of youth work and non-formal learning.

1.4. Expected outcomes

The Symposium will contribute to a common European political process towards the recognition of youth work and non-formal learning. Other expected results and outcomes are:

The expected results are as follows:

- A statement initiating a common European political process toward recognition of youth work and non-formal learning;
- A broader knowledge and/or awareness of existing informative and evidence-based material (such as researches or studies) on the impact of youth work and recognition of non-formal learning practices;
- An increased level of awareness, knowledge and understanding of the participants and of their backgrounds/contexts;
- A plan of action for concrete measures and monitoring processes;
- A broader knowledge of existing assessment and recognition tools and practices;
- A common understanding of the terminology used and of possible convergences between different ones.

2. *Format, methodology and draft programme*

2.1. Format and methodology

The meeting will build on the previous experiences with similar events of the youth sectors of the Council of Europe and of the European Commission, well as of the EU-CoE youth partnership and of the various stakeholders involved, who have all organised or coordinated symposia, conventions, congresses, Youth weeks or similar large-scale events.

The Symposium is designed as a learning situation providing prospects for everyone to fully participate and contribute to all programme elements. During the meeting participants will have an opportunity to exchange their experiences and build upon previous processes and outcomes for the elaboration of the Plan of Action and of the Statement.

The programme of the Symposium will provide space for individual as well as group reflection and debate and will encourage exchange of practices. It will also include open spaces for various types of presentations, exchanges and background information.

2.2. Draft programme

Monday 14 November 2011

From 9:00	Registration
10:00	Introduction spaces (in parallel) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assessment and recognition tools - Knowledge-tree - Fair: Information – material (for consultation)
13:00	<i>Lunch</i>
14:30	Opening of the Symposium on Recognition of Youth Work and Non-Formal Learning
15:00	<i>viii!</i> - A very important inspiring input
15:45	Milestones of the Symposium - from Pathways to Pathways 2.0
16:15	<i>Break</i>
16:45	The 10 elements of the Pathways paper: presentation corners
17:45	First impressions
18:15	<i>Aperitif and reception</i>
20:00	A NFL/E activity!

Tuesday 15 November 2001

9:30	Working groups on the elements of the Pathways paper <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The role and visibility of youth organisations 2. Quality and Training in non-formal learning 3. Knowledge on youth work and non-formal learning 4. Accessibility and transferability of recognition tools 5. Reinforce the political process at European level and work toward a joint strategy 6. Link to LLL strategy and vice-versa 7. Involve stakeholders of the employment sector 8. Associate the social sector and cooperate with other policy fields and with stakeholders of civil society
11:00	<i>Break</i>
11:30	Continuation
13:00	<i>Lunch</i>

14:30	Continuation
16:00	<i>Break</i>
16:30	Continuation
18:30	End of the working groups
19:00	<i>Dinner</i>
Evening	Free evening in Strasbourg or Happy Hour at the EYC-S Drafting committee: Finalisation of the drafting process of the Plan of Action and review of the Statement

Wednesday 16 November 2011

9:30	Sharing of the draft Plan of Action and Statement in the working groups Comments to rapporteurs and general rapporteur
11:00	<i>Break</i>
11:30	The 'Beyond Café': beyond the youth field – the broader picture
13:00	<i>Lunch</i>
14:30	Conclusions by the general rapporteur and presentation of the draft Plan of Action Reactions
15:15	Presentation of the Statement
15:45	Closing ceremony
16:15	Departures

3. *Participants*

The Symposium will bring together ca. 80-100 experts from the different youth work and youth policy fields, actors from the formal education area as well as from the employment sector and other relevant stakeholders of the civil society.

The composition of the group of participants aims at including, among others:

- Council of Europe
 - Directorate of Youth and Sport - Education and training / Division for Youth Policies and Intergovernmental Co-operation, the European Steering Committee for Youth (CDEJ) - the Advisory Council (AC));
 - The North South Centre - Global Education;
 - Directorate of Education;
 - The CoE Parliamentary Assembly (Sub-Committee of Youth);
- The European Commission
 - DG EAC - Directorate of Education, Directorate of Youth and Sport (Youth Policy and Youth in Action units), Directorate of Lifelong learning;
 - DG Employment;
- Networks linked to Lifelong Learning and to the work of the European Commission: Centre for Research on Lifelong Learning (CRELL), the European Lifelong Guidance Policy Network (ELGPN), the Network of Experts in the Social Sciences of Education & Training (NESSE), EURIDE, ESCO (European Skills, Competencies and Occupations);
- The Trio Presidency;
- National governments;
- The network of National Agencies of the Youth in Action programme and of SALTO Resource Centres;
- The European Youth Forum (NYCs and INGYOs);
- The European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (CEDEFOP);
- MA European Youth Studies;
- Other actors, structures, institutions and/or agencies in related fields, such as:
 - OECD
 - UNESCO
 - ILO
 - The Youth Employment Network (ILO-WB-UN)
 - Eurochambers
 - Business Europe
 - EUAPME
 - Education International
 - ERYICA
 - EYCA
 - Trainers
 - Youth workers or leaders of youth organisations
 - Researchers (Pool of European Youth Researchers - PEYR and beyond)

The profile and selection criteria for all participants has been defined as follows:

- To be actively involved in one of the related areas/fields tackled by the Symposium (LLL, employment, youth work, non-formal and formal learning, education in general, etc.);
- To have expertise/experience in one of the related areas/fields tackled by the Symposium (LLL, employment, youth work, non-formal and formal learning, education in general, etc.) and the willingness to share good practices with the rest of the participants;
- Have a certain level of decision-making power in his/her/hir structure/institution/organisation;
- Be committed to follow-up;
- Be committed to attend the full duration of the Symposium;
- Be able to work in English.

4. *Dates and place*

The Symposium will start on 14 November at 9:00 AM and will end on 16 November at 5:00 PM C.E.T. It will take place in the European Youth Centre, Strasbourg.

5. *Conditions and application procedures*

5.1. *Application procedure*

A call will be made for

- 20 youth workers
- 10 trainers
- 5-6 researchers

The eligible countries are the 47 member states of the Council of Europe.

Representatives of the employment sectors, institutions, stakeholders, social partners, experts and speakers will mainly be invited, although an open call for part of those can also be envisaged.

Calls for applications will be published in due time and applications will be made online.

5.2. *Conditions*

Accommodation

Accommodation and meals will be provided in the European Youth Centre Strasbourg which has been entirely reserved for the Symposium. Due to a limited number of rooms some of the seminar participants may need to be accommodated outside of the EYCS. Priority will be given to the persons directly involved in the organisation and implementation of the Symposium (team members, facilitators, rapporteur general, video team, etc.), to some speakers, to youth workers, trainers, researchers and/or on case-by-case basis.

Institutional partners are requested to cover their accommodation costs. A list of possible accommodation in Strasbourg will be provided.

Travel reimbursement

Priority for travel reimbursement will be given to the persons directly involved in the organisation and implementation of the Symposium (team members, facilitators, rapporteur general, video team, etc.), to some of the speakers, to youth workers, trainers, researchers and/or on case-by-case basis.

Institutional partners are requested to cover their own travel costs.

6. More information

More information such as:

- This concept paper;
- The Pathways paper;
- Additional background documents;
- Draft programme of the Symposium;
- Information about the application procedure;
- Financial conditions.

may be obtained upon request.

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