

Youth Partnership

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



EUROPEAN UNION



COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

***2015/2016 seminar on youth policy making
based on evidence & participatory principles***

Strategies, triangles and coincidences –

**Shaping European youth policies
in theory and practice**

Course Curriculum

1) Summary: overview and outline of the seminar on youth policy making

<u>Seminar title:</u>	Strategies, triangles and coincidences: Shaping European youth policies in theory and practice
<u>Main aim:</u>	The seminar aims to inspire and empower actors in the youth field to shape European youth policies in theory and practice.
<u>Seminar format:</u>	The seminar will consist of two events with 3 working days each, taking the time to bring European youth policies from concept and theory (first seminar, 7-10 September 2015 in Bremen, Germany) to practice and reality (time between both seminars) and reflection and critique (second seminar spring 2016, exact date to be determined).
<u>Main target group:</u>	<p>Teams of actors in the youth field in governmental and non-governmental contexts at European, national, regional and/or local level who want to strengthen the implementation of European youth policy.</p> <p>This includes (1) youth activists, youth representatives and youth leaders, (2) youth policy-makers and decision-makers, (3) youth researchers from various disciplines, (4) youth workers and youth trainers who are working in governments or non-governmental organisations, youth groups or youth clubs, research institutes or universities, collectively, individually and/or free-lance.</p>
<u>Pilot target group:</u>	The seminar will seek to bring together up to six country teams of 3–5 actors, who would like to strengthen the implementation of youth policies in their context. Teams should always include one governmental and one non-governmental youth sector representative and seek a gender-balanced composition including, for example, national agencies, youth-led organisations, youth activist movements, youth researchers, youth knowledge providers, youth information officers, youth (programme) officers, youth workers, youth trainers and/or youth support structures.
<u>Selection of participants:</u>	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. A targeted call has been issued to interested countries, member states of the Council of Europe, inviting governments to take the lead in composing country teams.2. Those interested in the course and finally selected will compose the teams, taking into account the criteria on target groups mentioned above.

2) Context: the story of the initiative to develop this seminar

The partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the field of youth, the German National Agency “JUGEND für Europa” and the SALTO Training and Cooperation Resource Centre – both of the Youth in Action Programme – have developed and tested the curriculum for a seminar on youth policy making based on evidence and participatory principles.

In view of the renewed 2010-2018 youth strategy of the European Union and the Agenda 2020 youth strategy of the Council of Europe, stakeholders and experts had identified the need to support key actors in the wider Europe with further information and training on youth policy topics.

The target group of such a course should be actors involved in the implementation of European youth policy at regional, national and European level coming from institutions and administrations as well as organisations and networks.

In order to develop the initial curriculum of the course, the EU-CoE youth partnership together with SALTO RC T&C and JUGEND für Europa organised in late 2012 and in spring 2013 two preparatory meetings with experts from various structures in the youth field to discuss and develop key aspects of the curriculum and to prepare the seminar in administrative and organisational terms.

Information had then been sent to all 50 European states signatory to the European Cultural Convention in mid-2013, inviting governments to take the lead in composing country teams and the European Youth Forum to take the lead in composing a European team for the first 2013/2014 pilot edition of the course.

This pilot course brought together teams from Germany, Lithuania, Malta, Romania, Slovenia, and the Ukraine, as well as a European team, for a first seminar in Malta in December 2013 and in Berlin in June 2014. Reports for both seminars, as well as an evaluation of the pilot phase, are available.

In view of its positive evaluation and the interest of more countries in participating it was decided to continue offering this training course in a second, 2015/2016 edition. In autumn 2014 the revision of the curriculum had started and interested member states had been invited confirming their interest and nominating country teams. Contact persons for this course are Hanjo Schild (joachim.schild@partnership-eu.coe.int) and Claudius Siebel (siebel@jfemail.de).

3) Objectives and outcomes: what should the pilot seminar ideally achieve?

Objectives: The seminar aspires to

- introduce European youth policy frameworks and relate those frameworks to the variety of realities from local and regional to national and European levels
- analyse youth policy concepts and investigate why concepts are built on specific approaches, such as youth rights, policy aims or policy cycles
- interrogate the main principles of youth policy, from evidence-based and participatory to transversal and cross-sectoral narratives
- facilitate the translation of European youth policy frameworks to manageable strategies for intervention in the contexts of the actors present

Outcomes: At the end of the seminar, participants will

- be familiar with the European youth policy frameworks and their political cornerstones, such as main resolutions and declarations
- be familiar with the stakeholders involved, their roles and their previous and current activities and actions on youth policy
- be familiar with the principles underpinning youth policies in Europe, including evidence-based and participatory approaches
- be familiar with typical instruments and approaches to youth policy across spatial levels and political domains
- be familiar with available resources to support youth policy development and implementation across Europe
- be confident in translating youth policy frameworks to contextualised intervention strategies and realising such strategies through feasible action plans

Methodology: Throughout the seminar, participants will

- explore the numerous experiences of actors present at the seminar with youth policy development and youth policy implementation
- consider key socio-political developments that frame youth policy from its development to its implementation, governance and evaluation
- examine youth policy strategies, approaches and instruments including relevant aspects of their emergence, formation and development
- explore dilemmas inherent in youth policies, such as problem-orientation, intergenerational justice or competing sets of indicators
- constructively critique European youth policy frameworks as well as the strategies and intervention plans developed throughout the seminar

4) Framework: the four phases of the seminar

The seminar consists of four phases: (1) a three-day residential kick-off event, (2) a phase allowing participants to test chosen approaches, ideas and/or activities in their context, (3) a three-day residential evaluative event, and (4) a follow-up phase.

Phase 1 – Concepts and theory (European, residential)

The first residential event serves as the overall kick-off and thematic introduction for the entire seminar. The steps covered during these three days are:

- Introduction, contextualisation and getting to know each other
- Connecting participants: experiences with youth policy development & implementation
- European frameworks: introducing youth policy frameworks and their political narrative
- Youth policy stakeholders: previous and current activities of main stakeholders
- Youth policy components: strategies, approaches and instruments for youth policy
- Youth policy concepts: logics underpinning youth policy, from rights to cycles
- Youth policy principles: evidence-based, participatory and cross-sectoral policies
- Youth policy instruments: what works and doesn't work across domains and contexts
- Youth policy strategies: contextualised strategies and action plans of participants

Phase 2 – practice and reality (local, non-residential)

The practice phase in between the two residential events will allow participants to try and verify chosen elements from the youth policy strategies and intervention plans they developed. During this phase, each team will:

- meet once to check on everyone's progress and discuss the various next steps
- get in touch once with another team to facilitate peer learning and exchange
- share short reports and receive constructive feedback from the training team

Phase 3 – Reflection and critique (European, residential)

The second residential event serves as the main point of reflection and critique, combined with an adjustment of strategies and plans. The steps covered during these three days are:

- evaluating and critiquing the tested approaches, ideas and/or activities during phase 2
- exploring dilemmas inherent in youth policies, from local through to European level
- revisiting and revising the previously developed strategies in light of made experiences

Phase 4 – Follow-up (local, non-residential)

The follow-up phase supports participants in their further youth policy engagement through:

- another meeting in their respective teams to facilitate coordinated, collaborative action
- another exchange with another team for peer learning as well as the training team

5) Programme flow: the phases and steps at a glance

1: Concepts and theory First residential event	2: Practice and reality Activities, actions, ideas	3: Reflection & critique Second residential event	4: Follow-up Making it real
<i>Day 1</i>	<i>Months 1 & 2</i>	<i>Day 1</i>	<i>Month 1</i>
<p><i>Context & introductions:</i></p> <p>What are the aims of this seminar? Who are the people involved? What are our different expectations? What are our experiences with youth policy?</p>	<p><i>Preparation & planning:</i></p> <p>Finalising preparations for the action or activity, as planned during the first residential event.</p> <p>Feedback from own team and other teams</p>	<p><i>Revisiting phase 2:</i></p> <p>What have we tried, and why? What has worked, and why? What hasn't worked, and why? What are the implications for our approaches to youth policy implementation?</p>	<p><i>Digestion & planning:</i></p> <p>Verifying in own organisations what kind of follow-up work is feasible and who can realise it</p> <p>Feedback from own team and other teams</p>
<i>Day 2</i>	<i>Months 3 & 4</i>	<i>Day 2</i>	<i>Month 2</i>
<p><i>Concepts & theory:</i></p> <p>Which approaches to youth policy exist? What are usual components? What are the main principles? What are the main instruments? And which logics & ideas underpin youth policy?</p>	<p><i>Making youth policy real:</i></p> <p>Implementation of the chosen local youth policy action, idea or activity</p> <p>Feedback and support from own team, other teams and training team</p>	<p><i>Dilemmas & problems:</i></p> <p>Which dilemmas and problems are typical when dealing with youth policy? How can we address them, both conceptually and in practice? What does this mean for our work?</p>	<p><i>Sharing & discussing:</i></p> <p>Discussions of final plans for action once they have been verified in own organisations</p> <p>Feedback and support from own team, other teams and training team</p>
<i>Day 3</i>	<i>Months 5 & 6</i>	<i>Day 3</i>	<i>Month 3</i>
<p><i>From theory to practice:</i></p> <p>How can youth policy function across domains, contexts, levels? What are successful models for strategies, actions and approaches? Which strategies, actions and approaches would we like to try out during the second phase? What kind of support will we need to be successful?</p>	<p><i>Preparing for phase 3:</i></p> <p>Documentation and critical evaluation of the action or activity on youth policy</p> <p>What went well? What went wrong?</p> <p>Feedback from own team, other teams and training team</p>	<p><i>From insight to reality:</i></p> <p>Which consequences should we draw from the lessons learned during the seminar? How can we translate the insights into our daily youth policy work? What kind of support will we need to be successful? How can we improve the quality and impact of youth policy work in Europe?</p>	<p><i>From learning to sharing:</i></p> <p>Developing contributions to share experiences and insights with the sector</p> <p>Articles for, for example, Coyote, the Partnership Series & youthpolicy.org</p> <p>Feedback and support from own team, other teams, training team as well as stakeholders</p>

DAILY PROGRAMME OF FIRST RESIDENTIAL SEMINAR

	MONDAY, September 7 th	TUESDAY, September 8th	WEDNESDAY, September 9th	THURSDAY, September 10th
9.00 – 11.00	ARRIVAL	Discovering different concepts of youth policy (rights, needs & wellbeing)	Spotlight on examples of youth policy across Europe (successes and failures)	Reflection and planning of next steps to be taken
11.00 – 11.30		Coffee Break		
		Main principles: participatory, cross-sectoral, knowledge-based (1)	Creative thinking session: youth policy from the perspective of various youth policy stakeholders	Closure
13.00 – 15.00	Lunch			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Welcoming and opening• Intro to context, frame, programme, participants, team and venue• Getting in touch: Me and youth policy• Getting started: What experiences do I have?	Main principles: participatory, cross-sectoral, knowledge-based (2)	Study visit	DEPARTURE
16.30 – 17.00	Coffee Break			
17.00 – 18.30	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What is my vision regarding European youth policy?• Timeline of milestones	Main principles: participatory, cross-sectoral, knowledge-based (3)	Study visit	
20.00	Dinner			
	Welcome	Free evening	Dinner in town	