

# Youth Partnership

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



## **Beyond barriers – international conference on the role of youth work in supporting young people in vulnerable situations organised by the EU-Council of Europe youth partnership and the Maltese Youth Agency**

Malta, 27 November – 130 experts from EU and neighboring regions gathered in Malta 26-27 November to discuss challenges and share ideas on youth work supporting young people in need.

Among the experts from the areas of youth work, policy and research there were members of the international networks steered by the EU-Council of Europe youth partnership, the European Knowledge Centre for Youth Policy (EKCYF) and the Pool of European Youth Researchers (PEYR).

The conference was opened by Hon Mr. Chris Agius, Parliamentary Secretary for Research, Innovation, Youth and Sport, and inputs followed on the social situation of young people in the host country and in Europe at large.

Young people from Austria, Finland, Georgia, Germany and Malta worked hard in a parallel programme to jointly identify their needs and share about the projects that successfully supported them in difficult periods of their lives. Presenting those projects and reflections to the other conference participants gave young people in vulnerable situations a strong voice in Malta.

Main conclusions from the conference stated that youth work is an effective way of addressing specific needs of young peoples in a participatory manner, in particular those in challenging situations. However, youth work alone cannot be responsible for young people's inclusion and therefore needs to liaise with other sectors. For this to continue and further develop, youth work's role and impact need to be better understood and appreciated. Provision of sufficient resources has to be strengthened, in particular in times of austerity when young people disproportionately face barriers to their social inclusion.

The conference was intensely followed on Twitter:  
<https://twitter.com/hashtag/beyondbarr14?src=hash>.

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