

Youth Partnership

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



Enlarged expert group meeting on researching educational and career paths for youth workers *Systems for formal and non-formal education and validation*

31 May – 1 June
Council of Europe Brussels Office

Concept Note

The EU-Council of Europe youth partnership work plan foresees in 2018 the continuation of the research project on mapping education and career paths of youth workers. In 2017 a first mapping exercise was carried out collecting data from 40 member states on education and career paths for youth workers through the network of correspondents of the European Knowledge Centre on Youth Policy (EKYP) and other stakeholders focusing on five aspects:

- Policy and legislation
- Formal (including university and vocational level) and non-formal education and training offers,
- Quality (including quality assurance, occupational standards) and competences
- Associations of youth workers and their role
- Employment, career paths and professionalization.

The [draft report of Mapping Educational and Career Paths for Youth Workers](#) has been reviewed with member state representatives in the European Steering Committee on Youth (CDEJ) and will be presented for discussion during 2018. It has also been presented during the European Training Strategy Conference organized by Salto Training and Cooperation in March 2018. Factual corrections will continue to be made throughout the year to the report to ensure the final picture is as accurate as possible.

The results of this study has been further analysed through the lens of practice architectures theory helping youth sector stakeholders understand the [Diversity of Practice Architectures for Education and Career Paths of Youth Workers](#) across Europe and where different countries stand when it comes to education and career paths of youth workers.

The conclusion of the research points to a limited response to the questionnaire from the non-formal stakeholders offering training or education to either voluntary or paid youth workers and calls for further research to understand their perspective as well as looking into the perspectives of youth workers themselves. This will be the main focus of the research project during 2018.

The expert group guiding the research project will be convened once in 2018 to debate the results of the research with representatives of formal and non-formal structures that have put in place education and validation systems for youth workers. The meeting will take the format of a seminar with the main aim to explore in detail the variety of models across Europe, their strengths and challenges. The EU-CoE youth partnership involves around 20 experts to the meeting, including the core expert group and research team.

Specific objectives of the meeting:

- Present and analyse as many national systems and practice architectures for education and career paths for youth workers;
- explore the perspectives of non-formal sector as educators/organisers and employers of paid or voluntary youth workers;
- further nuance the perspective of formal education providers, including VET systems, notably on competencies taught, key curriculum elements, practice support and other relevant aspects;
- identify approaches to building partnership for youth worker education and work support between formal and non-formal providers and the challenges they entail, including but not limited to questions around competences, standard setting and quality check, professionalisation and career paths).

Contributors will be invited to speak about the different experiences of developing youth work education systems exploring critical aspects of building and/or maintaining such systems at country or organization level and making them work.

Programme

31 May 2018

9.00 – 10.30 Introduction to the expert group meeting and presentation of the reports from the EU-CoE youth partnership

Marta Medlinska and Tanya Basarab, EU-CoE youth Partnership – Introduction to the meeting and contextualising the project in the on-going processes of the partner institutions

Presentation of the Phase I of the research conducted in 2017

Jim Odonovan, co-author of the Mapping study

Tomi Kiilakoski, EKCYP, Author of the analytical report on Practice Architectures

Tanya Basarab – Research plans for Phase II and first results

10:30 – 11:00 Break

11:00 – 12:30 Non-formal education and validation models for paid or volunteer youth workers – competencies, education/training, validation, support in four organisations

Carly Walker-Dawson, IFM-SEI

Joaquim Freitas, WOSM

Marzena Gawenda, EEE-YFU

Tamara Gojkovic, YEU International

12:30 – 13:30 Lunch

13:30 – 14:00 Initiatives of the partner institutions on youth work and youth worker education

Antje Rothemund, Head of Youth Department of the Council of Europe –contribution of the mapping project to the Youth Work Recommendation CM/Rec (2017)4 and the High Level Task Force guiding its implementation

Jacob Kornbeck, Policy Officer, Unit Youth, Volunteer Solidarity and Traineeships Office within the European Commission's Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture - contribution to the agenda on developing Quality Youth Work in Europe

14:00 – 15:30 Formal, including VET and non-formal education, validation and career paths – strengths and challenges of three country models

Germo Zimmermann, CVJM-Hochschule - University of Applied Sciences, Germany

Birgit Rassmussen, Estonian Youth Work Centre

15:30 – 16:00 Break

16:00 – 17:30 Challenges of building up systems for education of youth workers in three countries

Anna Ostriкова, EKCYP correspondent and coordinator of UN programme from Ukraine

David Hayrapetyan, EKCYP correspondent and coordinator of programme for continuous education of youth workers in Armenia

Marko Kovacic, EKCYP correspondent and researcher on academic programmes related to youth, co-author of academic programme on Youth Studies in Croatia

17:30 – 18:00 Strengths, challenges, perspectives for European level cooperation

Conclusions from day 1

1 June 2018

9:00 – 10:30 Cooperation between formal and non-formal education providers

Models of setting standards and validation of education and learning

Hilary Tierney, University of Maynooth, Ireland

Liz Green, Youth Link Scotland

Jelena Stojanovic, National Association of Youth Workers NAPOR, Serbia

10:30 – 11:00 Break

11:00 – 12:30 Strengths, challenges, perspectives for European level cooperation

Identifying key elements from research and the expertise across the countries and organisations

Identifying important questions to be explored with youth workers and with educators/employers/organisers of paid or volunteer youth workers

12:30 – 13:00 Evaluation and closing of the expert group meeting

Departure of Experts

14:00 – 18:00 Meeting of the researchers working on phase II of the research