

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

EU-CoE youth partnership

Pool of European Youth Researchers

Annual Meeting 2016

Draft Report

Budapest, 6-7 October 2016

Venue: European Youth Centre Budapest, Hungary

Programme

The meeting partially overlapped with the annual meeting of EKCYC correspondents.

	Annual Meeting of PEYR
Mon 05/09/16	Arrivals of PEYR Members
9:00 – 10:45	- Opening of the meeting by the youth partnership team; - Presentation of participants; - Q&A on youth partnership work programme, circulated beforehand; - Overview of cooperation between PEYR and youth partnership over the mandate;
10:45 – 11:15	Break
11:15 – 13:00	Update on respective areas of expertise and research and outlook at relevant trends and youth policy area, based on PEYR experience.
13:00 – 14:30	Lunch
14:30 – 16:00	Open-space discussions among PEYR
16:00 – 16:30	Break
16:30 – 18:00	New call for PEYR and new terms of reference: discussion;
18:00 – 18:30	Free Attendance: The EKCYC: recent developments, usage and features.
Wed 07/09/16	Joint PEYR – EKCYC Meeting with experts' inputs
9:00 – 10:45	- Opening of the joint meeting by the team of the youth partnership; - Round of introductions – name and role - Introduction by Partner Institutions via visio: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Ms Antje Rothemund, Council of Europe (visio) o Marta Medlinska, EU-CoE youth partnership (visio) - Synergies and interaction between PEYR and EKCYC; - Expert inputs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Learning mobility – input by Soren Kristensen; o Participation and e-participation – inputs by Tomaž Deželan and Kerstin Franzl, EUth digital participation project representative; o Bridges with formal education, vocational education and training and unemployment – input by, Pink Hilverdink (EKCYC); o Transitions - inputs by Ken Roberts and Helena Helve. o Young migrants and refugee, and the role of youth work – input by Barbara Bello, PEYR.
10:45 – 11:15	Break
11:15 – 13:00	Parallel thematic groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Learning Mobility - Participation and e-participation - Transitions
13:00 – 14:30	Lunch
14:30 – 16:00	Parallel Thematic Groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bridges with formal education, vocational education and training and unemployment - Young migrants and refugees, and the role of youth work - Building national knowledge networks on youth, youth policy and youth work
16:00 – 16:30	Break
16:30 – 17:30	Open space (topics to be defined during the meeting)
17:30 – 18:30	- Presentation of results of thematic groups - Discussion - Conclusions and closing

Participants

Pool of European Youth Researchers

1. Barbara Giovanna BELLO
2. Charles BERG
3. Adina Marina CALAFATEANU
4. Nuala CONNOLLY
5. David HAYRAPETYAN
6. Lihong HUANG
7. Siyka KOVACHEVA
8. Ewa KRZAKLEWSKA
9. Sofia LAINE
10. Elisabeth-Jane MILNE
11. Magda NICO
12. Maria-Carmen PANTEA
13. Sladjana PETKOVIC
14. Dunja POTOČNIK
15. Bence SAGVARI
16. Marti TARU
17. Robert THOMSON
18. Smiljka TOMANOVIĆ
19. Manfred ZENTNER

Partner Institutions

- Antje ROTHEMUND, Council of Europe (Visio)

Experts

1. Deniz Günce DEMİRHİSAR
2. Helena HELVE
3. Gulden Demet LÜKÜSLÜ
4. Nela SLADOJEVIĆ

EU-CoE youth partnership

1. Marta MEDLINSKA (Visio)
2. Tanya BASARAB
3. Hanjo SCHILD
4. Davide CAPECCHI

The profiles of PEYR members can be found here: <http://pjp-eu.coe.int/en/web/youth-partnership/peyr-members>

Contact details of PEYR members can be found here: <http://pjp-eu.coe.int/documents/1017981/1663776/PEYR+2015-09.pdf/9ebf1c06-ofe3-4a2f-9560-2d93cb295f1f>

Proceedings

The Pool of European Youth Researchers (PEYR) met for their annual meeting at the European Youth Centre Budapest on 6-7 September 2016. While the day 6 September was dedicated to the meeting of PEYR (with few external experts) exclusively, the day 7 September was a joint meeting with the national correspondents of the European Knowledge Centre on Youth Policy (EKCY) aiming at deepening the understanding on the current research on youth in Europe, and at identifying possible avenues for development in specific fields.

On 6 September, the meeting was chaired by Davide Capecchi, member of the team of the partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the field of youth. This report refers to this day only. A separate report is available for the day 7 September (joint PEYR-EKCY meeting).

The members of PEYR had the chance of presenting their work in youth research in Europe.

During the introductory round, the following elements for reflection were identified:

- In some European countries, e.g. the UK, Norway, Ireland, and Italy researchers are experiencing limitations in the scope of their work due to national regulations governing academia and research contributions: such pressure and non-validation of parallel academic activities limit the time available to contributing to the work on knowledge production of the youth partnership;
- The academic field in Europe is very strong but holds and defends sometimes a conservative view of youth research. The youth partnership, however, established a system of knowledge production on youth that is projected towards the future in a more open way. Such openness to innovation and new ways of doing research on youth also contributed to the success of the partnership.

The members of PEYR went on presenting the respective contributions to the work of the youth partnership in the previous year. PEYR members provided reliable, substantial, constant support to the team of the youth partnership across all the spectrum of activities of the workplan, most notably in the editorial teams of the volumes of the series Youth Knowledge Books and of Perspectives on Youth; by working on analytical papers on various themes; and by participating in and contributing to the preparatory phases of and during the main events of the youth partnership.

A few general comments were shared, concerning the **cooperation with the team of the youth partnership**:

- Inform PEYR on changes within the team and of the new allocation of responsibilities;
- The support received from the team of the youth partnership on the development of different activities and tasks received appreciation.

When it comes to **areas of research of members of PEYR**, the following themes were identified:

- Young people with migrant background and integration in the society;
- Impact of youth work on third sector for integrating young people with migrant background;
- Migration pedagogy – what competences teachers need;
- Family transitions – transitions to parenthood;
- Follow-up transition to parenthood of young people excluded on the basis of their ethnic background, unemployment, single parents, etc.;
- How to engage young people;
- Role that domestic animals play in the integration of young people;
- Building a more welcoming and united Europe by developing a more interconnected understanding of development (UN sustainable development goals focus);
- Norms and standards for access to health care for young people.
- European social survey – questionnaires on attitudes towards migration and foreigners, with special focus on young people's attitudes; also looking on how young people trust institutions – changes over 15 years;
- Profile of the educational system for national educational curriculum reform;
- Gender-related changes in the educational system and outcomes;
- Analysis of implementation of youth employment initiative in Croatia;
- Barriers between education and employment for young people;
- Service reform, innovation, capacity building of service providers to adolescents – piloting service innovation focusing on youth information;
- Vocational education and training: a research project looking into perception of work among VET students in Romania (15-17 year old young people, often experiencing social exclusion and who will not pursue university track) – perception on changes in the labour market and how they conceptualise their future opportunities;
- Youth entrepreneurship;
- Neoliberalism, austerity and the effect of the moral economy on young people's wellbeing.

- Social exclusion with a gender dimension: Qualitative research on girls not in education, nor in employment in Turkey;
- New ways and new styles of participation.
- Engagement and disengagement and forms of political participation of youth;
- Gender equality;
- Youth work and responses from youth work to integration of young migrants;
- Mobility and migration
- Studying Erasmus and how the programme has developed;
- Retraditionalisation of policies and its impact on youth decisions.
- The role of education in young people's lives after formal schooling is finished;
- Youth radicalisation , political extremists;
- Mental health of young people;
- Environment and health – air pollution and adolescents' mental health;
- Transfer of judicial responsibilities to associations – meetings of small delinquents and opponents using sociology and non-formal education.
- Support and early-intervention for children needing social protection;
- Young people's participation in a digital world and what it means for youth work;
- Designing evaluation methods for detached and outreach youth work;
- Documenting methodologies of working with young people with disabilities;
- Social entrepreneurship – competences for social economy initiatives;
- looking at intended and unintended effects of law and policy on young people at local level;
- Inter-sectionality in the Sociology of Law;
- Review of the implementation of the children's rights convention implementation (Roma children and unaccompanied minors);
- Youth and wellbeing;
- Social and political involvement of young people in some of the EU countries.

Feedback from open space discussion groups:

1. One group focussed focused on research on political processes in the Mediterranean and how NGOs can play a crucial role in political processes at national level – especially on how to support civil society and youth to continue collaboration even though the societal system is not fully functioning. This group concluded that **more cooperation on empowerment of youth and local groups, youth researchers and youth workers can be fostered in neighbouring countries to the EU.** The combination of youth work

and youth research can produce good knowledge so the group explored what kind of cooperation could be built in these domains.

2. One group discussed the **sense of belonging and how identity is shaped by young people**: the question of belonging is becoming more complex nowadays (the assumption that migration is followed by a new sense of identity is changed).
3. One group discussed about young people who are not as mobile and do not have experiences of integrating new senses of identity – **how young people in non-migrating status are closing their perspectives of accepting others – withdrawing to anchors of identity that are more ethnic, national, increasing social distance towards the others** – different by origin, sexual orientation or geographic origin. It is a value basis that turns towards other politics. We talk about radicalisation of politics but not about the value base that supports such change. It could also be useful to look at organisations that are open to integrating refugees and migrants and whether their mission is accepted by the majority young people.

Future of PEYR

The team of the youth partnership presented the idea of having 35 members instead of 25 and a mandate of one year renewable, with no new applications in subsequent years but selection of previous applicants for the following year. The PEYR demonstrated wide support for these ideas.

Suggestions from PEYR Members for Future Topics

It's important to have two persons representing PEYR in the Joint Council on Youth of the Council of Europe. Some research members should be involved in the programming committee and in the Bureau meetings so they know what is going on – it would bring research more into light.

The next TOR should include recommendations to disseminating knowledge to different groups at national levels, seen that researchers have to cooperate with NGOs, government, and other stakeholders.

Working groups (ex. editorial meeting) were created around concrete tasks. However, in the future it could be useful to create groups of interest linked to the work plan and to its envisaged outcomes.

Erasmus+ supports policy experimentation and research: a possible idea is to create connections between PEYR and Erasmus+ projects.

There is a remarkable distance between researchers and policy makers. Knowledge on youth and advocacy tools can be strengthened to clarify roles and expectations of the partner institutions to advocate for youth knowledge to be heard.

“Youth transitions” is another topic that can be discussed – from education to labour market, from youth to adulthood and to citizenship.

Research on youth work can be an interesting avenue of development, since there it is still missing a methodological focus: there are interesting trends in this field that can be studied, e.g. gamification of youth work. IT appears to be a good momentum in the area: the Council of Europe recommendation on youth work should be adopted in the near future and it should lead to the 3rd European Youth Work Convention 2020 in Germany. The Finnish Chairmanship of the EU in 2018 could support this work. It is timely to critically reflect on youth work given the demands, expectations and pressure and the development of youth work. Employability and entrepreneurship – tensions around these subtopics and youth work and a need for debate among youth workers at large.

Youth public policy and law – how public policy and law are understood by young people – related with the trust young people have in government, public institutions and their commitment to amend and challenge the status quo.

Youth and the future – how young people envision their future and the gaps they see between their aspirations and their desire for the future. Fear is a dominant emotion with regards to the future.

Another area of work could be focusing on youth policy development – principles, standards and concepts of youth policy – knowledge and evidence-based policy is a crucial aspect, in cooperation with Visegrad + EaP countries.

It will be important to give space to young migrants and refugees. The team of the youth partnership could provide a platform for that discussion.

A possible area of research could be investigating how young people understand human rights nowadays.

As for future areas of youth research, the topic most proposed was **retraditionalisation of young people’s identities**: as many young people are becoming more exclusive, they concentrate on the local and national levels, they focus on ethnic differences as opposed to having a European or cosmopolitan approach. These directions are the effect of existential and economic insecurities in Europe, of terrorism, of the perceived threats arising from the current

migrations from Middle East and Africa. All these aspects are worth being analysed and discussed.

There was also **proposal** to pool resources and support a funding for Masters or PHD for young people from non-traditional backgrounds.