

## Youth Partnership

---

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



# What about youth work with young refugees in Europe?

By [Andreia Henriques](#) (SALTO Inclusion & Diversity) and [Mara Georgescu](#) (partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the field of youth)

*This article aims to give an overview of what is happening at European level on youth work with young refugees. It provides information on recent policy, research and youth work initiatives as well as presents current and upcoming opportunities (capacity-building, funding) for youth workers.*

### 1. Do you want to learn more about it?

“ICL competences to work with refugees” is a **SALTO-Euromed** report that gives you an overview on the situation of migration and flight and a short input on concepts of youth work. You will also find examples of existing youth work initiatives, projects, institutions and materials that can offer you advice and inspiration to start new initiatives.

- Get your digital copy of the [report](#)

The Council of Europe implements a capacity-building programme at the **European Youth Centres**. This includes study sessions, through which during a week a youth organisation or network may explore important issues related to young refugees (some example can be found [here](#)), and also trainings or seminars.

- Check the 2018 programme [here](#)

The EU-CoE youth partnership launched recently a revised version of their **T-Kit on Intercultural Learning**, which can be an interesting tool when promoting activities with the local community on welcoming young refugees. In addition, [several workshops](#) led to the creation of a publication that aims to support youth workers in their daily work with young people, including young refugees, on issues such as participation, access to social rights, intercultural learning, working with young women, and mental health. Stay tuned as it will be launched this summer!

- Get your free online copy of the T-Kit 4 [here](#)

Interested in **new training opportunities**?

- Register and get regular updates on training opportunities from SALTO's [European Training Calendar](#)
- Check the training and education opportunities of the Youth Department of the Council of Europe at <http://www.coe.int/youth>

## **2. Looking for funding opportunities?**

Is your organisation active in the sport field? Do you organise sport activities? A new call has been published on "**Sport as a tool for integration and social inclusion of refugees**". The projects should involve local sport organisations and must focus resources on activities, where both women and men participate and involve refugees in mixed sport activities, especially at young age (up to 30 years old).

- Deadline for applications is 07/06/2018, check the [call for proposals](#)

The European Youth Foundation (Council of Europe) offers funding to **local, national and European youth organisations**. It funds from local educational activities on human rights, awareness raising related to non-discrimination, to European projects on inclusion, participation and training for youth organisations working with young refugees.

- Check the [funding opportunities](#) of the EYF

If you need a small grant for a great idea on **inclusion of students with refugee and migrant background in secondary school**, then you should check the **Seeds for Integration** grant programme of OBESSU. Since July 2016 more than 30 projects have been supported, reaching out to approximately 35.000 young people.

- Keep an eye on their webpage: [www.seedsforintegration.org](http://www.seedsforintegration.org)

In order to make sure that youth organisations can continue their important work in the field of refugee inclusion, in January 2018, the European Youth Forum in partnership with UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) launched the **European Youth Initiative Fund (EYIF)**. It provides grants to youth initiatives that are implemented with the meaningful involvement of young refugees and asylum-seekers and in cooperation with host communities. Project submission for the EYIF 2018 was open from January till March and 155 applications were received. As the project is yet in its pilot phase, for now, the best 10 youth initiatives have been selected for funding.

- Stay tuned and don't miss future updates on EYIF - follow YFJ on [social media](#)

## **3. What is happening at policy and research level?**

The **expert group on youth work for young migrants and refugees**, established under the EU Work Plan for Youth 2016-2018 is developing a practical toolbox for youth workers and youth organisations and policy recommendations as input to possible EU Council conclusions.

- Get to know more about the [mandate](#) of this expert group and the [EU Work Plan for Youth 2016-2018](#)

The European Union 2016-2017 **Action plan on the integration of third country nationals**, as part of the European Agenda on Migration, outlines the actions the European Commission is undertaking to promote active participation and social inclusion of third country nationals

- *Learn more about the [Action Plan](#).*

**BpE: Becoming a part of Europe** - "How youth work can support young migrants, refugees and asylum seekers" is a project promoted by a consortium of nine Erasmus+ National Agencies and nine associated partners, in the framework of the Erasmus+ programme, KA3. The project is coordinated by the Italian National Agency on Youth. The main purpose of the project is to develop and share **non-formal education methodologies and new inclusion practices**, with a view to promoting the integration and social inclusion of refugees, asylum seekers and young migrants and to foster understanding, tolerance and respect among people. From April to September 2018, partners are elaborating **policy recommendations** that will be presented during the **2<sup>nd</sup> Peer Learning Conference** in Slovenia in September 2018. In 2019, they will focus on capacity-building of youth workers.

- *Stay tuned and follow the project [here](#)*

The youth sector of the [Council of Europe](#) is currently in the process of developing guidelines/proposals for the member states on issues related to **young refugees' transition at 18** and their rights and the role of youth work in relation to the inclusion of young refugees.

- *Learn about the work of the Youth Department of the Council of Europe on [youth policies](#) and [refugees](#)*

In 2017, the Council of Europe adopted an **Action Plan on protecting refugee and migrant children (2017-2019)**, which guides its work in relation to this group in three areas: ensuring access to rights and child-friendly procedures, providing effective protection, enhancing the integration of children who would remain in Europe. The Special Representative of the Secretary General on migration and refugees produces specific [country reports](#) and also has a thematic work focused on [children](#).

- *Get to know more about the 2017-2019 Action Plan [here](#)*
- *Learn more about different initiatives of the Council of Europe, such as the Children's Rights Division's work on [child-friendly information](#) for children in migration and life projects, the Education Department's tool "[European Qualification Passport for Refugees](#)" for the assessment of the higher education qualifications and the [toolkit for language support of adult refugees](#).*

The [EU – CoE youth partnership](#) has also been active since 2016 on young refugee related issues. Its work has included **research, briefings and development of tools and knowledge**. In December 2018, a conference bringing together the youth and migration sectors to learn from each other and to advocate for young refugees' issues will be held in Strasbourg.

- *Check the [mapping of stakeholders](#) developed to provide information on entities active with migration issues in Europe*
- *Learn about the findings of a [research](#) on young refugees' transition to adulthood*

#### 4. Need some inspiration and tools?

The project "**Aware & Active**" – AAA is an Erasmus+ KA3 that aims to promote intercultural dialogue, media literacy, active youth participation and **improved access to the Erasmus+ programme and social inclusion** through civic participation of young refugees, migrants and asylum seekers. It is coordinated by Interkulturelles Zentrum, the Austrian National Agency for the Erasmus+: Youth in Action programme and is supported by 10 national agencies plus POYWE - Professional Open Youth Work in Europe. A **European Campaign** to promote diverse society, critical thinking and media literacy will be launched soon.

- See their [compendium of best practices](#) that showcases projects that have been supported under the Erasmus+ programme: Youth in Action
- Check their [Inclusion Guidelines](#) on how to include (young) migrants, refugees and asylum seekers into the project activities
- Check their [website](#) and join the European campaign later this year

In the framework of the BpE project, eighty-six youth work practices have been collected and compiled online:

- Check this [Compendium](#) and get to know more about what is being done in different countries

The [No Hate Speech Movement](#) campaign has marked [20 June](#) for the last 2 years with an online action day against hate speech targeting refugees. Although the European coordination of the campaign ended recently, still in many countries the National Campaign Committees continue their work.

- If interested in campaigning on this topic contact the [No Hate Speech Movement in your country](#)

SCI (Service Civil International) has been running its "**Building Bridges**" campaign since 2016. It aims to raise awareness on the topic of forced migration and promote peace, understanding and integration between locals, refugees, and asylum seekers. The campaign includes work camps and a small refugee fund (500€) for activities promoted by their branch organisations. The Building Bridges **Toolkit** is available to everyone interested in sharing know-how on voluntary projects involving asylum seekers and refugees as well as raising awareness on forced migration in general. It can also support you in starting similar initiatives by providing you with a list of practical guidelines on how to organise such projects and specific methods you can use.

- Get inspired with SCI [Building Bridges Toolkit](#)

"**Against All Odds**" is an UNHCR internet-based game putting players through the experience of being a refugee. The game has 3 modules and links to pages with explainers on the Geneva Convention and to background information on migrants, refugees and asylum from external sources such as NGOs. The game is available in Danish, Finnish, French, German, Icelandic, Greek, Spanish, Norwegian, Swedish, Estonian and Russian.

- Play and learn more about the migration and asylum fields with [Against All Odds](#)

Interested in **more tools** or do you have one that **you would like to share** with the youth work field?

- Check SALTO's [toolbox](#)

*We would like to thank the project coordinators of the Erasmus+ youth chapter KA3 projects: Becoming a part of Europe and Aware & Active, OBESSU (Seeds for Integration), the European Youth Forum (European Youth Initiative Fund) and the staff of the Youth Department of the Council of Europe for the contributions they sent for this article.*

*Did you miss something important? If you feel more is going on the European level in relation to young refugees, you can contact [Andreia](#) and [Mara](#) and we will do our best to integrate more information.*