

## Youth Partnership

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



## Steering Group on the European Youth Work Agenda

*29-30 March*

In 2022-2023, the EU-Council of Europe Youth Partnership will enhance its role in supporting the implementation of the European Youth Work Agenda (EYWA), notably by:

- A. Facilitating the dialogue within the youth work community of practice
- B. Supporting better recognition of youth work
- C. Supporting CoE and EU initiatives on youth work
- D. Organising activities in the priority regions with a focus on Youth Work Development
- E. Strengthening the Learning and Development opportunities for the members of the youth work community of practice, notably through thematic and broad knowledge development on youth work ([Youth Knowledge Books](#) (Youth Work Strategy Manual planned), [European youth work policy goals analysed](#)), educational materials ([T-Kits](#)), [Coyote magazine](#) for youth work practitioners, [Visible Value library on recognition of youth work](#), and online courses (MOOC on Essentials of Youth Work and related MOOCs on essentials of youth policy and youth research).

### Scope of the Steering Group

To guide the research, policy, training, capacity building and communication work of the Youth Partnership in this area and to ensure complementarity and coordination of various initiatives by the partner institutions and their actors, the Youth Partnership is setting up a Steering Group with broad representation of the youth work community of practice in Europe.

The Steering Group should meet regularly (twice a year), map, monitor and steer developments of various initiatives and actors and guide the Youth Partnership on implementation of its work plan activities on EYWA implementation.

The first meeting of the Steering Group should map out all European and national initiatives related to the implementation of the EYWA and identify where they can complement and strengthen each other as well as potential areas not covered by any actor. It will be also an opportunity to discuss the expected outcomes from the Youth Partnership in this field.

### Contribution to the European Youth Work Agenda

#### *Rationale*

The first covenant on youth worker training in 1998 was the beginning of the institutionalised cooperation leading to what is now the EU-Council of Europe Youth Partnership. Since then, the Youth Partnership has had youth work on its agenda, building up knowledge on youth work, its recognition, on learnings from its research projects on history and mapping education and training pathways of youth workers. It contributed to organising the three European Youth Work Conventions and hosts their on-line documentation.

The Youth Partnership has been gathering and analysing country information on youth work and explored thematic research on educational and career pathways, communities of youth workers, support systems, ethics and professionalism in youth work. Several initiatives were supported aimed at enhancing youth work policy and practice on the European and national levels (e.g. those of the Finnish Chairmanship of the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers and the EU Presidency, the European Academy on Youth Work, Europe Goes Local, European Training Strategy and Youthpass Advisory Groups, initiatives linked to educators of youth workers, involving universities). This has contributed to the European level endeavour to strengthen youth work, thus implementing the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers Recommendation on youth work and the European Youth Work Agenda (EYWA) for quality, innovation and recognition of youth work.

In 2020, the Youth Partnership played an important role in supporting development of the content core and background materials for the 3<sup>rd</sup> European Youth Work Convention (EYCW), held in December, when Germany presided both the EU Council and Council of Europe Committee of Ministers, and in following the implementation the Bonn Process. It contributed to the preparation and running of the Convention by sharing its findings and publishing studies on youth work in EECA and SEE, the youth work essentials series, a new Youth Policy Manual, and the Youth Knowledge Book #26 on education of youth workers, translated in 2021 into different languages. The Youth Partnership also collected additional data and elaborated further youth work development knowledge in Europe as well as involved experts. In 2020, it ran a MOOC on youth work essentials and produced other tools relevant for the sector. In 2021, the Coyote magazine issue 31 enhanced the visibility and outreach of the Convention and a second edition of the MOOC on youth work essentials was run.

In addition, the Youth Partnership has been supporting knowledge development and initiatives on education and training of youth workers in cooperation with governments (notably through the Peer Learning Activity with Finland, Germany, Portugal, Serbia and Georgia), SALTO Training and Cooperation and Erasmus+ National Agencies.

Recently, the Council of Europe and the European Commission decided to enhance their cooperation on youth work. The December 2020 EU Council resolution is a key milestone in this direction, suggesting assigning a stronger role to the Youth Partnership in supporting the implementation of the EYWA over the coming years, ensuring synergies and facilitating dialogue for youth workers.

### ***Purpose and expected outcomes***

In 2022-23, the Youth Partnership will step up its activities on youth work and strengthen its role in the implementation of the European Youth Work agenda, following three main directions:

- Facilitating the dialogue within the youth work community of practice
- Supporting better recognition of youth work
- Supporting CoE and EU initiatives on youth work

#### **A. Facilitating the dialogue within the youth work community of practice**

Expected outcomes:

- setting up and coordinating a steering group, as a means for networking, peer-learning, and fostering exchanges between those who have a role to play in the implementation of the European Youth Work Agenda on the EU and Council of Europe side;
- developing a methodology for national, regional and European consultations, knowledge gathering and analysis, under the guidance of the steering group, including mapping studies of European and national youth work ecosystems;
- holding consultations of the youth work community of practice at regional level and at European level (see the flagship event on youth work to be arranged in 2023).

#### **B. Supporting better recognition of youth work**

Important advances need to be made on the recognition of youth work in order to ensure a robust implementation of the European Youth Work Agenda<sup>1</sup> and the Bonn Process connected to it. This necessary effort responds to a strong demand from the youth work community of practice, picked up from the EYWA. In that context, the Youth Partnership will carry out specific research on recognition on youth work, in line with the policy decisions from both European Union and Council of Europe, namely the December 2020 EU Council resolution on the framework for establishing a European Youth Work Agenda, the Bonn Declaration<sup>2</sup> from the 3<sup>rd</sup> European Youth Work Convention and the Council of Europe's recommendation on youth work.

Expected outcomes:

- Carrying out a mapping study/research on models of recognition of youth workers skills and competences, under the guidance of the above-mentioned steering group which will define objectives, methodology, scope and topics to be addressed. This mapping study/research will include recommendations to the two partner institutions, with a special focus on who can do what and scenarios for mutual recognition of youth workers skills and competences. The provisional findings will be presented at the end of 2022 in the framework of the European Year of Youth and the final ones at the European community of practice meeting on the implementation of the European Youth Work Agenda, to be held in 2023.

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<sup>1</sup> Resolution of the Council and of the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States meeting within the Council on the Framework for establishing a European Youth Work Agenda. OJ C 415, 1.12.2020, pp. 1–8.

<sup>2</sup>[https://irp-cdn.multiscreensite.com/c0b1f356/files/uploaded/Declaration\\_of\\_the\\_3rd\\_European\\_Youth\\_Work\\_Convention.pdf](https://irp-cdn.multiscreensite.com/c0b1f356/files/uploaded/Declaration_of_the_3rd_European_Youth_Work_Convention.pdf)

- Continuing developing Visible Value library of resources on recognition of youth work and promoting it through a seminar in Eastern and Southeast Europe (material, advocacy, etc.);
- establishing, co-ordinating and building the capacity of a pool of experts on youth work development to respond to national and local needs (including a mix of profiles across policy, practice, volunteer and paid youth workers, educators and trainers of youth workers, youth NGOs and youth work researchers). Contracting experts to carry out studies supporting youth work development at national level, as needed. Connections and synergies with the European Commission's Sub-group on Youth work, the future digital platform on youth work and with the Council of Europe's working group on the European Youth Work Agenda will be ensured;
- finalising and promoting the Thinking kit for developing practice architectures for youth work;
- providing support with research and expertise to relevant initiatives in the field of education and training for youth workers (notably through the Peer Learning Activity with Finland, Germany, Portugal, Serbia, Georgia and Salto Training & Cooperation and Strategic National Agencies Cooperation on this topic), where appropriate.

### **C. Supporting CoE and EU initiatives on youth work**

Expected outcomes:

- support to advisory missions and other initiatives of the partner institutions on youth work;
- support the evaluation process of the Recommendation CM/Rec(2017)4 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on youth work, and EU Expert Groups supporting the implementation of the European Youth Work Agenda.

#### ***Target group and place***

Policy-makers, youth workers, NGOs, researchers, and other relevant representatives of the youth work community of practice, as well as representatives of other relevant sectors with particular thematic and geographic focus on implementing the EYWA.

2022:

- Establishment and first meeting of the Steering Group on the EYWA implementation and mapping study/research on models of recognition of youth workers skills and competences
- Development of the methodology for national, regional and European consultations, knowledge gathering and analysis and mapping studies, in the framework of the EYWA
- Visible Value seminar in Eastern and Southeast Europe
- Establishment of the Pool of experts on youth work
- 2nd meeting of the Steering Group
- Presentation of the provisional findings of the mapping study/research on models of recognition of youth workers skills and competences in the context of the European Year of Youth
- Finalising and promoting the Thinking kit
- Activity with regional focus on implementation of EYWA

2023:

- Two meetings of the Steering Group on the EYWA Implementation

- Community of practice meeting on the implementation of the European Youth Work Agenda (see the section dedicated to the flagship event)
- Regional consultations on the implementation of the European Youth Work Agenda

Throughout the workplan period:

- Research and analytical work to support the implementation of the EYWA
- Participation to PLA on competence-based education of youth workers and other initiatives, European Training Strategy and Youthpass Advisory Groups, as well as other relevant expert meetings of partner institutions

### **Geographical focus**

In 2022-23, regional activities targeting Erasmus+ Partner countries in Eastern and Southeast Europe will happen under the thematic objectives related to the Covid-19 pandemic (point 5) and the implementation of the European Youth Work Agenda (point 11). To be more specific, the activities will aim at strengthening the connection within the triangle of governance (youth research, youth policy and youth work) in the regions, promoting the research findings of the Partnership on the impact and learning from Covid-19 for the youth sector, and how they can be used in practice, as well as ensuring a follow-up on the results of 3<sup>rd</sup> European Youth Work Convention.

## **Flagship event 2023: European community of practice meeting on the implementation of the European Youth Work Agenda**

### ***Rationale***

The European Union and the Council of Europe have recently decided to increase their commitment to strengthening and further developing youth work practice and policies in Europe, and to bring their co-operation in this field to the next level. A framework to establish a European Youth Work Agenda was developed, coming from the European Union's Youth Sector Strategy 2019-2027 and the Council of Europe's Recommendation on youth work adopted in 2017. This new framework was specified in the December 2020 EU Council resolution, which notably suggests assigning a specific role to the Youth Partnership in ensuring synergies and facilitating dialogue for youth workers.

In that context, the Youth Partnership has strengthened its commitment in the field of youth work and developed a set of activities for 2022-23 aimed at facilitating a dialogue within the youth work community of practice, including a European community of practice meeting on the implementation of the European Youth Work Agenda (see point 4).

### ***Purpose and expected outcomes***

The European community of practice meeting is meant to pave the way to a permanent dialogue at European level between all those involved in the implementation of the European Youth Work Agenda.

To be more specific, it aims at:

- offering to the whole youth work community of practice a room for peer learning, networking, and exchanging on their involvement and actions supporting the implementation of this common strategic framework;
- presenting the findings of the research/mapping study on models of recognition of youth workers skills and competences, along with recommendations and scenarios;
- sharing experience, practices and views on lessons learnt from the youth work activities during the pandemic, including outreach;
- helping identify objectives, priorities and support needed for youth work development in Europe in terms of knowledge base, training and support systems, quality, innovation, recognition and areas of focus;
- discussing and agreeing on a process of permanent dialogue, exchange and support to the youth work community of practice;
- exploring areas that the Youth Partnership and its pool of experts on youth work development could support.

Expected outcomes:

- initiatives and practice sharing on the implementation of the EYWA;
- methodology for a permanent dialogue, exchange and support to the youth work community of practice;
- practical conclusions on the objectives, priorities and support needed for youth work development in Europe;
- concrete guidelines for the partnership in implementing the EYWA.

#### ***Target group, timeline and place***

Up to 100 participants from the youth work community of practice, including researchers, policymakers, representatives of associations of youth workers, public sector, paid professional and volunteer youth workers, youth organisations delivering youth work, etc.

2022:

- 2nd Steering Group Meeting on the EYWA implementation, to be partly used to prepare the European community of practice meeting

2023 (tbc):

- Holding the meeting in a physical, hybrid or digital format, depending on the evolution of the Covid-19 situation

### **European Platform on Learning Mobility**

#### ***Rationale***

The European Platform on Learning Mobility (EPLM) is an open network, conducted in a participatory way and guided by a core Steering Group (SG), consisting of 11 members, and a larger Resource Group, consisting of up to 35 members. Its members represent a wide variety of stakeholders and programmes active in the learning mobility in the youth field. Learning mobility is intended as a form of youth work, initiated and managed by youth workers for the benefit of young people, specifically

in a cross-border perspective. The Youth Partnership coordinates and supports the work of the EPLM and its SG. The SG identified in early 2021 sustainability in learning mobility as one of its priority areas for the next two years, initiating therefore a research in this area. Given the continued impact of Covid-19 pandemic on the youth field and learning mobility, a guide was also compiled into three different types of learning mobility, including online, blended and hybrid.

In parallel, two working groups have been set up, in order to take forward and further promote the two existing thematic priorities: quality in learning mobility and the impact of learning mobility on communities. In 2019, the Handbook on quality in learning mobility and a mobile application for practitioners were finalised and widely promoted, stimulating huge interest among very wide public of practitioners and policy-makers.

In line with one of the conclusions of the biennial conference “POWER of Learning Mobility Changing lives, changing society”, EPLM began in 2019 elaborating indicators of impact on individual, society and community level, including their learning. In 2020, a research project on community impact indicators first identified the thematic areas and then looked at the impact of learning mobility in hosting and sending communities, from three different angles (individual, youth organisations and community). A questionnaire for collecting data was developed and testing of community impact indicators was conducted in 2021. At the same time, a review of 2019 research on social impact indicators was undertaken, in order to update the relevant references.

### ***Purpose and expected outcomes***

The purposes of the EPLM are to serve as a space for exchange and cooperation of youth organisations, researchers, policy makers and practitioners, such as trainers and youth workers. It strives to create conditions for the development of high-quality and sustainable learning mobility for all in the youth field in Europe. In order to achieve this vision, the EPLM is working to pursue quality, impact, knowledge, inclusivity, participation, sustainability, visibility and recognition of learning mobility (including hybrid or online) in non-formal and informal education and learning in Europe.

Expected outcomes:

- further developing the knowledge and understanding of sustainability in context of learning mobility, in line with Youth goal 10 – Sustainable Green Europe, and stronger focus of programmes on sustainability, identification of best practices and supporting the biennial conference, hosted by the German NA
- development of a policy brief/reflection paper on value and cost of learning mobility activities;
- update the Handbook on quality of learning mobility with research on hybrid and online learning, in collaboration with French and Belgium national agencies, in their Quality Wave project;
- promote the desk research and findings of the testing of community impact indicators of learning mobility, conducted throughout 2020 and 2021;
- promote the research on different understandings of learning mobility, which have been on the increase as a result of the impact of Covid-19 pandemic, including the online, blended and hybrid models of mobility;
- coordinate two core Steering Group and two Resource group meetings each year and publish summer and winter editions of EPLM newsletters.

### ***Target group, timeline and place***

Youth researchers, policy-makers and youth workers interested and involved in learning mobility in the youth field in Europe.

2022:

- Core Steering Group and Resource group meetings
- Publication of EPLM newsletters
- Seminar promoting the training kit on value based on learning mobility
- Promoting the desk research and testing of the indicators on community impact of learning mobility

2023:

- EPLM biennial conference on sustainability
- Core Steering Group and Resource group meetings
- Publication of EPLM newsletters

Throughout the workplan period:

- Promoting, and updating as relevant, the quality tools - including the Handbook and Q!App with research on hybrid and online learning, in collaboration with French and Belgium national agencies, in their Quality Wave project.



### Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) on youth work

#### *Rationale*

The Youth Partnership has run the first edition of the Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) on youth work essentials in 2020 before the 3<sup>rd</sup> European Youth Work Convention. In 2021, the MOOC on essentials of youth work was updated with the results of the 3<sup>rd</sup> European Youth Work Convention and with additional relevant audio and video materials. A new, revised edition was run in spring 2021 to keep the topic of youth work fresh and support the implementation of the European Youth Work Agenda.

The MOOC had a high enrolment rate and it helped making youth work known to a wide audience and draw attention to its value for the society, provided an overview of youth work practice and policies across Europe and presented current developments in this field, including at European level. The first two editions of the MOOC on youth work essentials have been facilitated by a group of instructors and was run in a specific time and format. It was decided that in order to allow access for a wider group of learners, the MOOC should be transferred into a self-directed learning experience. This will allow interested learners to join the course at any time and complete the whole course or just the modules they are interested in at their pace.

#### *Purpose and expected outcomes*

The purpose of the self-directed MOOC on youth work essentials is to enhance awareness of youth work among a wide public, including through accessible visuals informing the learners about rationale, nature, reality and trends in youth work. The new edition will be continuously updated with relevant materials and it will be monitored by experienced instructors. This will allow increased flexibility for participants and it allows to keep the course relevant and available for the youth work community of practice in Europe and beyond.

Expected outcomes:

- a revised and updated content of the MOOC on youth work essentials based on youth sector developments and additional audio and video materials;
- overview and awareness of the basics of youth work (concepts and definitions, forms, practices, approaches, objectives, actors at European and national levels) and the European youth work among a wide public;
- overview on how youth work is supported (through policies and strategies, research, education of youth workers, funding, etc.);
- a platform for sharing further examples of diverse good practices existing in Europe and beyond;
- engaged youth workers, youth researchers, trainers, educators, volunteers, youth organisations, policy-makers, researches, etc. in a dialogue on youth work.

#### *Target group, timeline and place*

Students involved in youth work studies or learners involved in non-formal education processes related to youth work, volunteer or paid youth workers, youth work managers responsible for

planning youth work, those involved in youth work policy-making or in funding youth work, youth workers' education providers, researchers other persons interested in exploring the subject.

2022:

- Updating the content of the MOOC on youth work essentials as needed
- Making available online the updated self-directed MOOC on youth work essentials, continuous update and monitoring

2023:

- The updated self-directed MOOC on youth work essentials is available online with continuous update and monitoring