

Youth Partnership

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



EUROPEAN UNION

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Compendium of background readings

Symposium

Visible Value: Growing youth work in Europe

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European Youth Centre in Budapest (EYCB)

Disclaimer: The opinions expressed in this work, commissioned by the European Union–Council of Europe youth partnership, are the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official policy of either of the partner institutions, their member states or the organisations co-operating with them.

Background

Over the last 25 years, the EU-Council of Europe Youth Partnership (hereinafter Youth Partnership) supported the development of knowledge-based youth work in Europe and strived to create synergies and close cooperation between the Council of Europe and the European Union institutions and their Member States.

Youth Partnership also worked on promoting, developing, and strengthening quality youth work and the social, political, and formal recognition of its contribution to youth participation and social inclusion of young people. Partnership's work attempted to cover all aspects youth work development, to support actors and beneficiaries, and contribute to the improvement of youth work environments.

In the context of the implementation of [The European Youth Work Agenda](#), the Youth Partnership has strengthened its commitment in the field of youth work and developed a set of activities for 2022-23 including a European Community of practice meeting on the implementation of the European Youth Work Agenda (hereinafter 'the Agenda') and youth work development.

The symposium [“Visible Value: growing youth work in Europe”](#) (EYC Budapest, 31 May – 1 June, 2023), is meant to pave the way to a permanent constructive dialogue at European level between all those involved in the implementation of the Agenda.

The event aims at:

- offering to the youth work community of practice a room for peer learning, networking, and exchanging on youth work development and the implementation of the European Youth Work Agenda, and identifying challenges faced and support needed;
- discussing the most recent research findings on youth work and showcasing good practices, promising initiatives and resources developed by the Youth Partnership and participants and their organisation;
- presenting related initiatives and achievements of the Council of Europe and of the European Union;
- sharing views on a process of permanent dialogue of the youth work community of practice for the upcoming years.

In framework of the implementation of the [The Council of Europe Recommendation on Youth Work](#) and the [Youth Sector Strategy 2030](#), the [EU Youth Strategy \(2019-2027\)](#), and the [European Youth Work Agenda](#), the role of Youth Partnership will remain essential, especially in regards to promotion of the further development and strengthening the quality, innovation, and recognition of youth work.

A compendium of resources and knowledge produced

This background paper strives to provide a detailed list of the resources/publications (printed and digital) of the Youth Partnership on youth work development. This would potentially entail a reflection on the overall role and potential impact of the Symposium as a part of the long-term efforts of the EU-Council of Europe Youth Partnership to contribute to the implementation of the European Youth Work Agenda, also considering recent relevant policy and programme developments in Europe.

THE HISTORY OF YOUTH WORK & YOUTH KNOWLEDGE SERIES

Since 2008, the European Union-Council of Europe youth partnership has regularly organised debates and discussions of the history of youth work policy and practice in various countries in Europe, in co-operation with its partners. The results have been published in seven volumes of the Youth Knowledge Series - The "History of youth work in Europe" with the aim to achieve better understanding of the developments and current challenges in youth work and youth policy.

- [The history of youth work in Europe and its relevance for youth policy today \(2009\)](#), by Griet Verschelden, Filip Coussée, Tineke Van de Walle and Howard Williamson (eds.)

In this book a historical perspective was taken aiming to identify the close links between youth work developments and broader social, cultural and political developments. What are the beliefs and concepts that underpin youth work? How do they relate to the recurrent youth work paradox, that youth work produces active and democratic citizens but at the same time seems ineffective for young people who are excluded from active citizenship?

Youth work is a polyvalent and multi-faceted practice. It takes place in a wide range of settings, varies from unstructured activities to fairly structured programmes, and reaches a diverse array of young people, touches upon many different themes and cuts across several other disciplines and practices. This versatility is one of the strengths of youth work, but at the same time it may lead to fragmentation and product vagueness. Highlighting the youth work policies in Belgium (Flanders), Germany, England, Poland, Malta, France and Finland, tracing back the roots of youth work and identifying different evolutions within and between countries helped the authors to initiate a fundamental discussion on modern-day youth work identity and to cope in a constructive way with the recurrent paradoxes of youth work.

- [Youth Knowledge #11 - The history of youth work in Europe, Relevance for youth policy today, Volume 2 \(2010\)](#), by Filip Coussée, Griet Verschelden, Tineke Van de Walle, Marta Mędzińska and Howard Williamson (eds.)

The lack of historical consciousness makes youth work vulnerable to instrumentalisation, whether by policymakers or even by young people themselves, claiming youth work should fulfil the needs they define to be urgent and relevant. Youth work is a social and pedagogical practice that must be adapted to very diverse historical, geographic and social contexts, but there are still some underlying, basic assumptions that have structured practices and policies to date and continue to do so. In this light, a cross-cultural and transnational perspective can

be most enlightening. This second volume of the history of youth work in Europe, presents the youth work histories of some very different countries: Belgium and its three communities, the Netherlands, Ireland, Wales and Hungary. The reader is also introduced to the history of the relatively young European youth policies, and is even given a glimpse beyond European borders with a history of youth work in South Africa.

- [Youth Knowledge #16 - The history of youth work in Europe, Relevance for today's youth work policy, Volume 3 \(2012\)](#), by *Filip Coussée, Howard Williamson and Griet Verschelden (eds.)*

Following on from the first two volumes of History of youth work in Europe, each of which was based on international seminars, the Belgian Presidency of the European Union held an international and interdisciplinary conference on the history of youth work. This third volume presents the work of this conference, which widened the scope of study from national histories to questions concerning the historical evolution of youth work methods, theories and targets. The 1st European Conference on the History of Youth Work made a two-prolonged contribution: to learn from history and to engage in intercultural exchange and learning. This publication is intended to build bridges between past and future, east and west, north and south - and to inform contemporary debate on youth work and youth policy in Europe.

- [The history of youth work in Europe, Relevance for today's youth work policy, Volume 4 \(2014\)](#), by *Marti Taru, Filip Coussée and Howard Williamson (eds.)*

Volume 4 of the History of youth work in Europe, covers the 2011 workshop in Tallinn, which was co-organised by the Estonian authorities with the support of Finnish and Flemish partners, and sums up the discussions in the previous three volumes. Discussions on the history of youth work will continue, and will thematically build on the earlier events and findings: what is the identity of youth work? Where is youth work placed between private and public spaces? Where is the balance between autonomy and dependencies? Where is youth work going?

- [Youth Knowledge #19 - The history of youth work in Europe, Autonomy through dependency – Histories of co-operation, conflict and innovation in youth work, Volume 5 \(2016\)](#), by *Lasse Siurala, Filip Coussée, Leena Suurpaa and Howard Williamson (eds.)*

Volume 5 of the History of youth work in Europe addresses questions like: How have government policies and administrative practices during the past decades affected youth work? What kind of strategies has youth work developed to react to them and to create a positive space for work with young people? Can educational approaches of youth work, like social pedagogy, help mediate between young people in their ever-changing lives and society? Co-operation between youth policy, youth research and youth work has been called “the Magic Triangle” – but is the magic still there?

This publication discusses these and other topics from a variety of perspectives. The authors come not only from Europe, but also from the USA, Australia and South Africa, providing a refreshing comparative reflection on youth work issues and opportunities, which is revealed to be global in nature. They also have diverse and varied backgrounds in youth research,

youth work, youth policy making and youth worker training. This comparative historical perspective puts some of the pieces of the “youth work puzzle” together, while many are left unconnected. It also becomes apparent that there is an element of randomness in the historical development of youth work. Many structures, policies, approaches and methods are not “historically necessary”. Rather, many things could have come out differently. This volume on the history of youth work provides a rich collection of national youth histories to complement and build upon the four earlier volumes, and histories and analyses of youth work for readers to compare with their own experience, sharpen their critical view and inspire their thinking.

- [Youth Knowledge #20 - Thinking seriously about youth work. And how to prepare people to do it \(2017\)](#), by Hanjo Schild, Nuala Connolly, Francine Labadie, Jan Vanhee, Howard Williamson (eds.)

Across Europe, youth work takes place in circumstances presenting enormous differences with regard to opportunities, support, structures, recognition and realities, and how it performs reflects the social, cultural, political and economic context, and the value systems in which it is undertaken. By analysing theories and concepts of youth work and by providing insight from various perspectives and geographical and professional backgrounds, the authors hope to further contribute to finding common ground for – and thus assure the quality of – youth work in general.

The focus is on describing how to “provide opportunities for all young people to shape their own futures”, as Peter Lauritzen described the fundamental mission of youth work. The best way to do this remains an open question. This Youth Knowledge book tries to find some answers and strives to communicate the strengths, capacities and impact of youth work to those within the youth sector and those beyond, to those familiar with its concepts and those new to this field, all the while sharing practices and insights and encouraging further reflection.

- [Youth Knowledge #23 - The history of youth work in Europe, Youth work and social work Connections, disconnections and reconnections – The social dimension of youth work in history and today, Volume 6 \(2018\)](#), by Howard Williamson, Tanya Basarab and Filip Coussée (eds.)

This sixth publication in the History of Youth Work in Europe project based on the workshop held in Malta – Connections, Disconnections and Reconnections: The Social Dimension of Youth Work, in History and Today – looks at the relationship between youth work and social work and the role youth work can play in the social inclusion of young people.

Contributors have reflected on concepts, tools and support measures for more vulnerable and often socially excluded young people and have sought to promote a common understanding of youth work as a social practice. The workshop that led to this book sought to understand where youth work has positioned itself from its origins, through its development, to its contemporary identity. Is youth work as much a social practice as a non-formal educational one? Where does the balance between these two dimensions lie? What are the mutually enriching dimensions of these two fields in terms of their impact on young people’s lives? While most agree that youth work needs to be further defined as a practice or profession in itself and that the process of shaping its identity continues in different ways in

different countries, it is clear that when it comes to a cross-sectoral perspective and youth work's interaction with social work, the picture becomes significantly more complex, arguably much richer and certainly more dynamic than might have been foreseen.

- [Youth Knowledge #24 - Between insecurity and hope. Reflections on youth work with young refugees](#), by Maria Pisani (Editor-in-Chief), Tanya Basarab, Barbara Giovanna Bello and Sofia Laine

This Youth Knowledge book presents theoretical references and reflections on the experiences of young refugees and the way they reconcile personal hope with the tensions within their host societies. It also explores learning from practices and their theoretical underpinnings concerning the role of youth work in a cross-sectoral approach. This book aims to be a reference for policy makers, practitioners and researchers in the youth field and stakeholders from other sectors working on inclusion, access to rights and the participation of young refugees.

All the contributors propose a very critical engagement with the reality of young refugees in today's Europe, where tolerance levels for negative phenomena, such as human rights violations, hate speech and discrimination, are on the rise. However, there is also an underlying message of hope for those willing to engage in a human rights-based youth work practice that ensures safe spaces for being young, no matter who, no matter where. Practices and reflections deal with democracy, activism, participation, formal and non-formal education and learning, employment, trauma, and negotiating identities.

- [Youth Knowledge #25 - The history of youth work in Europe, Pan-European and transnational youth organisations, The overall lessons learned from the history project, Volume 7 \(2019\)](#), by Howard Williamson and Tanya Basarab (eds.)

Why have political, social or environmental causes often been behind the origin and evolution of youth organisations? Have other ideas been influential too? Why have some organisations expanded well beyond their countries of origin? To what extent have they held firm to their original values and purpose, and to what extent have they adapted and evolved in changing circumstances? How have they related to youth policy or youth work agendas? How vulnerable have they been to ideology, context or political influences? Which of their characteristics have persisted over time? These are some of the questions that are explored in this book, which draws on contributions from the last seminar on the history of transnational youth organisations and their relation to youth work today.

This book has three parts. The first explores the evolution of transnational youth organisations and movements over the past 100 years. The second adds two more country histories of youth work to the body of knowledge already established in earlier volumes in the series. The third and final part focuses on 12 "trilemmas" and reflections that have emerged from the 10-year History of Youth Work in Europe project. This anchors an invitation to the youth work community to consider and debate each trilemma, independently and in relation to each other, in the context of both the local environments of youth work delivery and across the wider European youth policy context, in anticipation of the 3rd European Youth Work Convention.

- [Youth Knowledge #26 - Youth worker education in Europe, Policies, structures, practices \(2020\)](#), by Marti Taru, Ewa Krzaklewska, Tanya Basarab (eds.)

This book looks at how youth work practitioners learn their trade, what formal and non-formal education offers exist and how education is contextualised in the broader picture of youth work recognition. Starting with the premise that formal education entails a series of steps from which youth work practitioners would benefit, this book explores that picture through a mapping study and delves further into its findings through thematic contributions.

The results of the research and debates with policy makers, researchers, practitioners, educators and other stakeholders identifies a field of growing opportunities across Europe. The situation of youth workers in different countries varies from advanced practice architectures for youth worker education to those in need of development. Youth worker education, however, is not only about the education and training offers, it is also about financial and organisational resources, legislation, support systems, competence frameworks, quality standards, ethical frameworks and guidance. This book aims to support youth work so that it becomes more visible and evolves into a recognised field of practice among other occupations and professions engaging with young people.

THE T-Kit SERIES

The T-Kits are a product of the partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the field of youth, representing a theoretical and practical tools offered to youth workers to work with and use when training young people. The T-Kit Series is the result of a collective effort involving people from different cultural, professional and organisational backgrounds. Youth trainers, youth leaders in NGOs and professional writers have worked together in order to create high-quality publications that address the needs of the target group while recognising the diversity of approaches across Europe to each subject.

- [T-Kit 10 Educational Evaluation in Youth Work \(2007\)](#)

The ultimate aim of this T-Kit is to support and contribute to the improvement of youth projects in Europe, by developing the competence of youth workers in the theory and practice of Educational Evaluation. This T-Kit is an educational and methodological tool to help practitioners to naturally develop, integrate and improve educational evaluation in youth work. Concrete experiences and existing practices of evaluation as developed in practical youth work in Europe were used as reference material.

This T-Kit represents a comprehensive overview of educational evaluation in youth work which is primarily addressed to youth workers closely involved in learning processes and educational activities with young people (trainers, facilitators, mentors, group leaders), although it should be of interest to other actors involved in youth projects like organisers, administrators and decision makers.

- [T-Kit 11 Mosaic: The training kit for Euro-Mediterranean youth work \(2010\)](#)

In line with the T-Kit series developed within the Youth Partnership, Mosaic is intended to provide theoretical and practical tools for youth workers and trainers to work with and use when training people. More specifically, Mosaic aims to be an intellectually stimulating tool that supplies youth workers, trainers and project leaders interested in Euro-Mediterranean youth co-operation with starting points, essential information and methodological proposals

enabling them to understand, address and question common issues present in the reality of Euro-Mediterranean youth projects.

What makes *Mosaic* special as a T-kit is the fact that it does not focus on one topic (such as intercultural learning or project management). It complements all the other T-kits by reflecting and exploring the specificities of the Euro-Mediterranean region and the specific objectives and issues of the Euro-Med Youth Programme. Mosaic is also complementary to other tools developed within the Euro-Med Youth Programme, such as the T-bag and other materials produced by the Salto Euro-Med Resource Centre.

Mosaic should be of interest to anyone interested in intercultural learning/dialogue activities. More than any other T-kit, Mosaic is of direct interest and use to youth workers and project leaders, not just trainers.

- [T-kit 7 European citizenship in youth work \(2017\), revised edition](#)

The concept of European Citizenship is deeply connected with the ideals of democracy, participation and human rights in Europe and beyond. On the one hand, many young people express those ideals in multiple ways, as active citizens, outside and inside formal democratic structures. On the other hand, it is still a challenge to stimulate many young people to engage more in society and feel concerned by wider European or global processes. This T-Kit was developed to find ways to stimulate young people to engage more in society, thus exploring citizenship, and to support them as they develop their sense of belonging to the wider community, Europe, as they become concerned about, and committed to, its values, its present and its future.

- [T-kit 13 Sustainability and youth work \(2018\)](#)

This T-Kit is a practical tool which provides opportunities to young people to engage in reflection and action in relation to sustainability – which is not only about addressing environmental threats, but also about ensuring that everyone is able to enjoy human rights in a way which does not jeopardise the rights of human beings in the future. These should include social and economic, civil and political, cultural and environmental rights.

Young people need to understand the consequences of climate change – and other problems and take the lead both in adopting more sustainable lifestyles and in creating solutions.

The T-Kit is designed primarily for youth workers and educators to introduce the topic of sustainability to young people in a non-formal setting. The manual includes information about the issues related to sustainability, educational activities that will familiarise learners with some of the problems facing the globe and encourage them to discuss solutions. This T-Kit offers information about how youth groups can make a difference in their locality, and perhaps beyond.

- [T-Kit 14 Value based learning in mobility \(2022\)](#)

This T-Kit has been written by and is for facilitators of learning, to help start their thinking process about an important, but also complex, topic. It aims to promote value-based education in general: to explain it and, with practical examples related to specific values, show how it can be used. It is framed within the current policy framework of the Council of Europe and the European Union, including their youth-mobility programmes.

Learning mobility in the youth field is increasingly recognised and present in European programmes and in the activities and initiatives supported by the European Union, the Council of Europe and other institutions.

The T-Kit should be understood through a holistic learning and non-formal education approach: the combination of theory, background information, examples and some practical ideas should help to initiate reflection from the relatively new angle of value-based education in learning mobility in the youth field. Providing a meeting place for people from different environments and communities, learning-mobility programmes draw attention to values, trigger reflections on them and stimulate questioning and critical examination. If prepared and facilitated well, these experiences can contribute to preparing and supporting young people and adult learners to be active in society and to be agents of change.

Value-based learning is not neutral, and neither is the T-Kit – Value-based learning in mobility projects. It is rooted in a set of values that it explores, promotes and encourages action based on them. To support this process, the T-Kit is divided into two parts: one conceptual and one practical. The conceptual part lays the foundation for value-based learning in mobility, while the practical part encompasses concrete activities and “thought provokers”, which address the dilemmas and questions that can arise when implementing activities.

KNOWLEDGE TRANSLATION: ESSENTIALS & INSIGHTS SERIES

- [Youth work Essentials handbook \(2020\)](#), by Tanya Basarab, James O’Donovan and [MOOC on Essentials of Youth Work](#)

The booklet Youth Work essentials gives an overview of the main features of youth work in Europe and offers tips on European standards, resources, networks and programmes that contribute to the development of youth work at all levels. This third issue of “Essentials” closes the exploration of the youth sector triangle of governance, featuring the pillar of youth work practice. What is youth work and how is it defined? Who is involved in it and what are its benefits for young people? Where does youth work happen and based on which principles? What are the policies, programmes and funding that recognise it and support its quality development? This issue zooms in on the essential features of youth work that need to be in place for it to have a wider and more enduring impact on the lives of young people across Europe. It does so by giving a general illustration of the main features of youth work in Europe and by offering tips on European standards, resources, networks and programmes that contribute to a better environment and experience of youth work at all levels.

The MOOC on Essentials of Youth Work, was developed and opened by the EU-Council of Europe Youth Partnership, as a self-directed online course. After the successful first two editions of the course, learners from all over the world were welcomed again with an updated course content.

- [Youth work in the spotlight \(2020\)](#), by Nik Paddison and Snezana Baclija Knoch

A user-friendly guide to Recommendation CM/Rec(2017)4 of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe to member States on youth work aims to inspire and motivate many to put youth work in the spotlight and to advocate for its quality and development, from the local to the European level. To help its member states to make youth work a reality, in 2017,

the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe adopted Recommendation CM/Rec(2017)4 on youth work, which is the first internationally agreed policy document that focuses explicitly on youth work, its value for society and the way ahead for its quality development in Europe.

This publication is an accompaniment to this recommendation and aims to bring its content closer to potential users: policy makers, youth workers, and managers of youth work activities, youth leaders, educators of youth workers, youth organisations, and so on, and provide step-by-step information and guidance on the implementation of the recommendation. The publication also offers advice and examples of actions to take and policies to develop so that youth work can be put in the spotlight of youth policies and can make a difference in young people's lives.

- [Insights into developing the youth work environment: A thinking and action kit \(2022\)](#), by Ajsa Hadzibegovic, Bastian Kuntzel

This thinking and action kit was designed with change makers of youth work in mind. Youth workers, youth organisation representatives, trainers, managers or educators of youth workers, local or national policy makers, they can all contribute to strengthening youth work recognition, quality and support and resourcing for the whole youth work environment in their context. The thinking kit draws on an extensive body of research on education and career pathways of youth workers carried out between 2018 and 2020, mapping realities and delving into specific aspects of youth work in Europe. The research was published in Youth worker education in Europe: Policies, structures, practices (see Youth Knowledge Book #26), 2 in April 2020 by the EU–Council of Europe Youth Partnership. The research highlighted a diversity of practice architectures and many entry points to further developing youth work across Europe.

Research shows how diverse youth work has evolved in different countries and regions. This is reflected in the definitions, the regulatory environment, changes in accessing formal and non-formal education and qualifications, mentoring and career support programmes and quality development of the whole ecosystem. Starting from this reality and aiming to support the implementation of the European Youth Work Agenda, this edition of Insights into developing the youth work environment translates the knowledge gained in Europe over the last decades into a hands-on support tool.

The publication is designed to support change makers at national and local levels as they carry out an assessment of where youth work stands and how to plan the way forward. This publication includes a short background, good practice examples, as well as questions for reflection, guidance and checklists. It complements the Youth Work Essentials and the massive open online courses (MOOC), Knowledge Books, T-Kits, Visible Value library and other capacity-building and support tools for youth work development offered by the EU–Council of Europe Youth Partnership.

STUDIES, RESEARCH AND PAPERS

In context of the [Expert group on researching education and career paths of youth workers](#), the research on educational and career paths of youth workers in Europe began in 2017 with a survey of Council of Europe member states on five broad aspects, among other:

- educational and training for youth workers (including opportunities offered in the fields of both formal and non-formal education and training);
- quality assurance and competence frameworks and systems;
- associations of youth workers;
- employment opportunities and career paths for youth workers and professionalisation.

The results of the information submitted by 41 member state representatives in the European Knowledge Centre on Youth Policy (EKCYP) network and in the European Steering Committee on Youth (CDEJ) have been analysed in two parts:

- [Part I. Report mapping educational and career paths of youth workers](#), edited by James O'Donovan, and
- [Part II. Diversity of practice architectures on educational and career paths of youth workers in Europe](#), by Tomi Kiilakoski

In follow up, a number of thematic working papers were developed:

- [Youth workers in Europe. Associations, networks and support](#), by James O'Donovan
- [What do you see? A look at youth work through the prism of sociology of occupations](#), by Marti Taru
- [Views of educators and youth work managers on the competences of youth workers](#) by Dunja Potočnik
- [Ethical standards in youth work and how they support education and career pathways of youth workers](#), by Sladjana Petkovic and Ondřej Bárta
- [Early career perspectives on the educational pathways of youth workers](#), by Tomi Kiilakoski
- [Youth workers learning in non-formal contexts](#), by Dunja Potočnik
- [Systems for formal and non-formal education and validation of youth workers. An Analytical Report](#)
- [Promoting quality in youth work practice in Europe](#), by James O'Donovan
- Study based on national realities in nine European countries [Youth work communities in Europe: practitioners, arenas and cross-sectoral partnerships](#) (2020), was also created by Tomi Kiilakoski in the follow up phase.

In other contexts, Youth Partnership produced variety of resources listed below.

- [Youth work against violent radicalisation \(2018\)](#), by Miguel Angel García López

In order to determine and illustrate the role of youth work in regard to growing youth radicalisation and the associated use of violence, the SALTO EuroMed, SALTO EECA, SALTO SEE, the National Agencies of Erasmus+ Youth in Action of France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, the United Kingdom, and the partnership between the Council of Europe and the European Commission in the field of youth have come together in 2017 to research and showcase positive ways and initiatives in which violent radicalisation of young people can be addressed and prevented, and examine how we can strengthen the role of different actors and communities in the countries that signed the European Cultural Convention and in the countries in the Southern Mediterranean region. As a result, this study presents ways in which youth work prevents radicalisation leading to violence. It also identifies inspiring youth work practices, as well as the needs and challenges youth work faces.

While all youth work activities are aimed at empowering and supporting young people, this study focuses on those activities and initiatives aimed at increasing the resilience of young people and preventing the process of radicalisation leading to violence, in order to support young people in understanding, critically analysing and eventually resisting radical ideologies and rejecting violence.

The 20 practices included in this research offer different perspectives on how diverse youth work approaches and methods can shape young people's attitudes, perceptions and behaviours. These practices are grouped in five categories: peer education; online campaigns and digital media; co-operation with other stakeholders; providing opportunities; and education and training. While all the practices presented here use more than one approach in the prevention of violent radicalisation, the grouping serves to showcase the interdisciplinary nature of the work, and a variety of approaches, activities and frameworks that youth workers use in their everyday activities.

- [The role of youth work in supporting young refugees and their political participation: education, social capital and agency](#), by Simon Williams and Charlie Hughes

Young refugees' participation is crucial for an inclusive and healthy democracy. Yet, in the process of political engagement, young refugees encounter significant barriers due to multiple social structures and political forces, which treat refugees as the "other". This paper aims to provide definition of a "young refugee" and tackle topics of [Political participation and young refugees](#), [Youth work and political education](#), and [Youth work, social capital and agency](#) in the attempt to explore the role of youth work in boosting resilience by providing educational spaces where young refugees can explore, develop and debate political issues and become aware of and develop their own agency – the capability of individuals to make their own independent, free choices.

- [Youth Work in Eastern Europe: Realities, perspectives and inspiring initiatives \(2020\)](#), by Alena Ignatovitch and Max Fras

This publication explores the reality of youth work in the six countries of eastern Europe involved in the Eastern Partnership initiative, namely Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine. The political and economic framework of the Partnership influences the guidance on developing youth policy and youth work at national and regional level. While studies on the situation of young people, their social inclusion and youth policy in these

countries are available, and incorporate a regional perspective, none to date have looked at the realities of youth work. This publication covers the following aspects of youth work: definitions; implementation; financing; youth worker education; methods of youth work; infrastructure; and youth-work quality standards. While a lot of research in the region is based on surveys and opinion polls among young people, there has been relatively little analysis of youth policy, and even less is known and widely understood about the situation of youth work. With youth work becoming a key focus in European youth policy co-operation, this publication is a first attempt to paint a picture of youth work by country and across the region.

- [“Greening the youth sector”. Sustainability checklist \(2021\)](#), by *Neringa Tumėnaitė*

The sustainability checklist has been developed to serve as a set of guidelines for the youth sector at large. It is based on a desk review of existing literature, guidelines, policy documents from the EU and the Council of Europe and recommendations and checklists from various youth organisations across Europe, including: Alliance of European Voluntary Service Organisations (Alliance), Climate Students Sweden (Klimat studenterna), Coordinating Committee for International Voluntary Service (CCIVS), Eriyca and Eurodesk, Erasmus Student Network (ESN International, ESN Portugal, Social Erasmus ESN Spain), International Young Naturefriends (IYNF), University of Zurich (UZH), Youth and Environment Europe (YEE) 11 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY, World Organization of the Scout Movement (WSC), Youth for Exchange and Understanding (YEU), Zero Waste Fest (ZWfest). Data was also collected through personal exchanges with representatives of the youth organisations listed above, and from a focus group consultation and discussions with 15 youth organisations that are recipients of European Youth Foundation grants. Representatives discussed sustainable practices in their organisations and made valuable contributions for the draft sustainability checklist. The final version has been adjusted to include their feedback and suggestions.

- [Youth Work in South-East Europe \(2022\)](#), draft, by *Dunja Potocnik, Mary Drosopulos Boshko Stankovski*

Southeast Europe has been an area of various social, political and economic turmoil for more than three decades. The changes (and lack thereof) affect youth work and youth and pose challenges to the implementation of youth policies. Efforts by the Council of Europe and other international organisations to facilitate positive developments in the youth sector through the involvement of policy makers, practitioners and youth researchers often do not result in the desired changes. Therefore, the Youth Partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe recognised the need to conduct qualitative research on the state of youth work in this area, four years after the last seminar on youth work in SEE. The main goal of the study is to identify pivotal components of youth work and hindrances to its performance in 12 countries of South-East Europe in order to propose recommendations for advocating better positions of youth workers and youth work in national and international contexts. The 12 observed countries are: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Kosovo*, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia and Turkey.

- [European youth work policy goals analysed: The role of the EU-CoE youth partnership in the interplay between the European Union and the Council of Europe \(2022\)](#), by *Iлона Evelyn-Rannala, Jelena Stojanovic, and Marko Kovacic*

In the last decade the policy dimension of youth work has come much more into focus. Proliferation of different documents covering youth work demonstrates the need for better contextualization, recognition or even regulation of youth work as a distinctive practice across

Europe. European Union and Council of Europe demonstrated their dedication for better support to development and advancement of youth work, both at the European level but also at national levels. This paper seeks to study thoroughly the youth work policy goals and objectives, compare, and identify similarities and differences between the two institutions. For this analysis, youth work is understood as described in the 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.

The second central concept in this analysis is the notion of policy goals that were grouped into eight thematic categories: 1. Quality youth work; 2. Youth workers: learning and cooperating; 3. Youth work: understood and recognised; 4. Innovative, adaptive and sustainable youth work; 5. Developing youth work; 6. Youth work for youth; 7. Core values; 8. Youth policy.

The following documents are analysed to understand strategic orientations of the European Union and Council of Europe and to assist in creating more operational plans for the implementation of youth work policy objectives: 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; Final Declaration of the 3rd European Youth Work Convention; Council of Europe Committee of Ministers Recommendation on Youth Work; The EU Youth Strategy 2019-2027, and The Council of Europe youth sector strategy 2030.

- [Competence frameworks and competence-based approaches in youth worker education and training in five European countries\(2022\)](#), by *Tomi Kiilakoski, Tanya Basarab*

This paper studies competence frameworks of youth work in five European countries. The study originated from the peer learning activity (PLA) on education and training of youth workers launched in 2019. The goal of the peer learning activity is to contribute to the development of competencybased frameworks for education and training of youth workers in Europe. There are six participating countries in the PLA: Finland, Georgia, Germany, Ireland, Portugal and Serbia. In this paper the first five countries are examined. In the initial discussions it was noted that there is not enough information on how competencies are defined in the competency descriptions; what bodies are responsible for these description and what role do the competency frameworks descriptions play in the youth policy, in particular in relation to education and training of youth workers. The aim of this study is to look at the content and the production of youth worker competences frameworks in different countries and to evaluate how much there is horizontal consistency between the participating countries. This also involves analysing how competence frameworks in youth work are structured. In addition to this the role of competence frameworks in youth policy is analysed.

- [Peer Learning Activity on Higher Education of Youth Workers Expert meeting on higher education in youth work, Analytical report \(2023\)](#), by *Marko Kovacic and Tomi Kiilakoski*

Education and training of youth workers has gained prominence in international forums in the last few years. In Helsinki, in September 2022, a meeting focused on higher education in youth work was organised within the framework of a peer learning activity (PLA) on Education and Training of Youth Workers. The PLA was initiated in 2019 by the EU–Council of Europe

Youth Partnership, SALTO Training and Co-operation, Finland's Ministry of Education and Culture and the National Agencies of Erasmus+ Youth Germany and Finland, Ireland, Portugal, policy makers and youth work structures from Serbia and Georgia. The seminar was organised by the Humak University of Applied Sciences, which has a strong youth worker education programme. The aim of the PLA was to develop a shared understanding of quality youth worker education and training between the participating countries, and make a step further on cross-sectoral co-operation, to study country approaches with regard to the formal education and training of youth workers, to examine the competence development of youth workers, and to explore how European and international standards, tools and approaches can be applied in such a context, and to create a network of educators in higher education of youth work.

The analytical reports consist of three parts. They answer the following questions: how we teach youth work, what we teach, and where we teach it. In the first part we focus on the youth work didactics and analyse what was shared about what is being taught in youth work programmes at the higher education level. We continue with the part dedicated to the study of how much Europe there is in youth work curricula and in the last part we illuminate and deconstruct the discussion on where youth work is being taught and explore its connection with other (academic) fields). It is important to point out that all three aspects emerged from discussions among seminar participants and as such reflect ideas and propositions of this specific community of practice.

- [Technology and the new power dynamics: limitations of digital youth work \(2022\)](#), by Alicja Pawluczuk and Adina Marina Șerban

This study offers some analytical perspectives on the limits of digital youth work. The discussion reflects on the practical implementation of digital youth work and the underpinning philosophy and values of youth work. The purpose is to explore the existing digital youth work mechanisms, tools and developments put in place both by state and by non-state actors. This article examines some of the gaps in digital youth work programme design and delivery (both locally and on a strategic level) and provides some guidance on how these might be addressed. The discussion is grounded in research on digital youth work and testimonies of youth workers in Europe based on their experience of delivering youth work services and activities online. The analysis is based on a review of policies and programmes dedicated to digital youth work before the Covid-19 pandemic, but also during and post-lockdown, when the development of digital and "smart" youth work was accelerated. This paper addresses those who might be (or already are) involved in digital youth work planning and delivery and provides youth workers, youth organisations, policy makers and researchers with some food for thought on digital youth work.

- [Automating Youth Work: youth workers views on AI \(2023\)](#), by Alicja Pawluczuk

This paper begins by an overview of the methodology and the data collection methods used. The findings are then presented in three sections: (1) Youth workers perceptions of AI; (2) Perceived benefits of AI in youth work; (3) Perceived issues and concerns about AI in youth work. This is followed by a set of considerations for the youth sector and researchers. The final section provides examples of existing AI resources and projects that might be useful in the youth work context. 8 The paper offers some early insights into a topic and educational practice that has been largely underresearched - and continues to undergo a rapid

transformation. Therefore, it is important to note that the findings of this study provide a glimpse into the multilayered debate about what AI is and how it is perceived in the youth sector. The analysis here is based on a small sample of participants and should therefore not be viewed as representative of the entire sector. Nonetheless, the input of those involved in this study have been important to starting this conversation and identifying some common AI related themes, hopes, and fears in the European youth sector. Despite its limitations, there is a hope that the findings will provide new knowledge and be useful for youth policymakers, researchers, and the youth workers themselves.

The first set of data was collected at the symposium Navigating Transitions: adapting policy to young people's changing realities, organised the partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the field of youth on 21-23 June 2022 in Tirana, Albania. The purpose of the workshop was to facilitate an open discussion with a group of symposium participants about their experiences of AI in the youth field sector. Nine additional interviews with experts took place in February 2023 and the survey launched with the aim to collect general reflections about what AI means in the European youth sector.

Covid-19 YOUTH KNOWLEDGE HUB

- [Covid-19 Youth Knowledge Hub](#): A reference section of the EU-Council of Europe youth partnership highlighting research and knowledge gathering initiatives

The Covid-19 crisis negatively influenced transitions of individual young people, but it also impacted the youth field actors, including policy-makers, practitioners, youth organisations and platforms for young people's participation but also youth researchers. While there is a clear emergence of the digital youth work and increasing use of digital tools in working with young people within both formal and non-formal education across Europe, there is also an understanding that there are needs of young people that have not been responded to, leaving many to face on their own issues related to social exclusion, discrimination and a redefinition of social and safety nets. There are also questions about changing relationships and behaviour, changing perspectives on connection to friends and community, impact on well-being and mental health, employment, participation, activism, youth organisations and many other areas of young people's lives.

Youth partnership explores the various effects of the pandemic on young people through its research networks by looking at the two sides of the Covid-19 pandemic impact: challenges for the youth sector and positive initiatives, while supporting the partner institutions and other stakeholders in data collection and analysis of their findings.

The following resources tackle the Covid-19 pandemic impact on youth work and youth services (more or less explicitly) across Europe.

- [Meta-analysis of research on the impact of Covid-19 on the youth sector](#), by Anna Lavizzari, Alonso Escamilla, Sandra Roe, Sladjana Petkovic
- [Briefing 1: An Introduction to Research on the Impact of Covid-19 on the Youth Sector](#), by Anna Lavizzari, Alonso Escamilla, Sandra Roe, Sladjana Petkovic

- [Briefing 2 - An introduction to research on the impact of Covid-19 on the youth sector](#), by Anna Lavizzari, Alonso Escamilla, Sandra Roe, Sladjana Petkovic
- [Briefing 4: Review of research on the impact of COVID-19 on the youth work, youth organisations and the digitalisation of services and activities for young people](#), by Alonso Escamilla, Irina Lonean
- [Briefing February 2023: Covid-19 recovery policy measures: the role of governments, youth organisations and young people in Europe](#), by James O'Donovan, Sladjana Petkovic
- [Briefing October 2022: The impact of Covid-19 on the youth sector and relevance of the EU recovery and resilience plans](#), by James O'Donovan, Sladjana Petkovic
- [Effects of Covid-19 across youth work and youth activities. Summary of the survey launched by the CMJ working group on responses to Covid-19](#)
- [The impact of Covid-19 on young people and the youth sector in South-East Europe](#), by Ivana Bošković, Lutjona Lula, Özgehan Şenyuva
- [Towards a better understanding of COVID-19 impact on young people and on the youth sector in Eastern Europe and South Caucasus](#), by Maria-Carmen Pantea, Tamar Makharadze
- [Youth services during the Covid-19 pandemic – a patchy net in need of investment](#), by Dunja Potočnik and Ruzanna Ivanian

ONLINE LIBRARY OF RESOURCES

Visible Value II brings a greater focus to the subject of the recognition of youth work. These pages explore six areas linked to the recognition of youth work.

- The section, [About Recognition](#), provides some background information on recognition, an explanation of the four areas of recognition, and an animated timeline of the recognition journey.
- There is an updated and more accessible section on [Inspiring Recognition Practices and Tools](#), this section explores each of the selected practices and or tools with a brief description.
- The [Recognition Stories](#) this time are focused on the work of different members of the community of practice and how they have contributed to the recognition of youth work - and come in a number of different formats.
- The [National Situations](#) provide an overview of what has been or still is happening in each European country towards the recognition of youth work.
- [European Policy Developments](#) is a small section that provides access to the small number of policies that are linked to the subject of the recognition of youth work.
- The [Recognition Resources](#) section features an assortment of publications, events, and web resources from the main European institutions. Each resource is directly or indirectly promoting the recognition of youth work.

COYOTE ONLINE MAGAZINE

- o [Issue #31 Boosting Opportunities! The 3rd European Youth Work Convention](#)
- o [Issue # 26 Smart youth work](#)
- o [Issue # 20 What's extreme about youth work](#)
- o [Issue # 16 The power of youth work](#)

Under 30' YOUTH WORK ESSENTIALS PODCASTS

The podcasts of the EU-CoE partnership in the field of youth were prepared for the MOOC on Youth Work Essentials covering topics such as : participation, social inclusion, youth work, better knowledge, visibility of youth work & youth policy.

- [Quality and standards in youth work \(August 2020\)](#): talking with Sabine Klocker from Austria, and Jonas Agdur from Sweden about quality and standards in youth work.
- [Youth workers: values and ethics \(September 2020\)](#): talking with Hilary Tierney from Ireland, and Antti Korhonen from Finland about values and ethics in youth work and their importance in youth work practice.
- [History of youth work \(August 2020\)](#): talking with Howard Williamson from UK, and Jan Vanhee from Belgium on the history of youth work in Europe.

ILLUSTRATIONS & INFOGRAPHICS

- [Youth Work Environment & Youth Work practice architecture](#)



Conclusion

In the spirit of the 25th anniversary, and within the framework of the Agenda, the Youth Partnership organizes the symposium [“Visible Value: growing youth work in Europe”](#), at mid-point between two European Youth Work Conventions. As such, this event is ment to support the process of the preparations of a next possible European Youth Work Convention in 2025.

A general overview of topics covered through Partnership’s work, briefly presented in this compendium, should help the participants to increase knowledge and awareness of developments in youth work in Europe, identify objectives, priorities and support needed for youth work development in Europe and exploring where the Youth Partnership and its partner institutions could offer support while taking into account the differences between the various regions, levels and areas of youth work.

Preliminary insight into the topics covered by Partnership’s knowledge networks shows that the majority of them were related to the **conceptual framework of youth work**. With the aim to achieve better understanding of the developments and challenges in youth work, a historical comparative perspective was taken aiming to identify the close links between youth work developments and broader social, cultural and political developments. Tracing back the roots of youth work and identifying different evolutions within and between countries aimed to provide answers to questions like where youth work has positioned itself from its origins, through its development, to its contemporary identity. These questions will, undoubtedly, remain relevant in the coming years, especially when it comes to **capacity of youth work to respond** to changes in society and in young people’s everyday lives, to new knowledge and to the political context.

The role of Youth Partnership in supporting “growing youth work in Europe” by providing reference for policy makers, practitioners and researchers in the youth field and undertaking continuous reflection on methods and innovation in practices, analyzing trends and new developments, as well as in developing conceptual frameworks, strategies and practices with partners from other sectors will remain essential.

The focus on **global trends** tackled in the recent publications and studies (i.e. climate changes and digitalisation and their impact on youth work), should be widened by taking a closer look into demographic challenges, for example, to support the development of innovative solutions, smart and digital youth work.

Promotion of **recognition and validation of youth workers’ competences** in the EU and its Member States was part of the Partnership’s portfolio, especially regarding and development of quality standards for education and training of youth workers, comparative analysis of their career pathways, competence frameworks, and related barriers. However, continuous and upgraded research, and creation of a theoretical and practical tools in this domain should be fostered in the future.

Credibility, quality and recognition of youth work practice were discussed in several Partnership's publications from a variety of perspectives. As noted in the Agenda, "practices in the field of youth work need to be further promoted in society, and the quality of youth work must meet the expectations and requirements of the field and of society, and be consistent with the nature, self-image and professional practices of the field, in order to ensure that the role and importance of youth work, as well as the results it delivers, are acknowledged beyond the field itself".

In order to meet these requirements, a common basic understanding of **ethical frameworks** of youth work, and their role in supporting quality and recognition of youth work as a value based social practice should be enhanced to help diversifying youth work from other practices/professions working with young people, and to, among other, assure safe, accessible, open and autonomous spaces for youth work and services for young people.

Comparative analysis of good practices in **youth work monitoring and evaluation** could be also helpful, as well as creation of guidelines/manuals and know how in order to communicate the strengths, capacities and impact of youth work to those within the youth sector and those beyond, to those familiar with its concepts and those new to this field, all the while sharing practices and insights and encouraging further reflection.

Cooperation, connections, roles and relationships within the youth work community of practice in the Member States and at European level is another underresearched area which is fundamental to the effectiveness of the Agenda and will shape both the content of the Agenda and its future development. For the youth work community of practice to further develop youth work as a field geared to young people's needs, internal cooperation should be nurtured, including connections between youth work providers and youth policy makers, and cooperation with other sectors and policy areas. In addition, recognition in society, involvement with youth policy, appropriate legal frameworks, financial resources, institutional frameworks, and appropriate and sustainable structures are all important factors.

Finally, the role of Partnership was crucial in providing knowledge and analysis on **the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on young people and the youth sector in Europe**, having in mind that the existence and sustainability of many youth associations, youth work organisations and youth services/spaces was under threat as a result of this crises.

Acknowledging that youth work is constantly faced with fundamental challenges and must adapt to meet changing needs, the Partnership's research agenda should be also focused on issues related to **crises and opportunities** in the post-pandemic times marked with trauma and growing uncertainty. Even though youth work has shown its resilience and capability to react quickly to such a crisis, analysis of the relevance of the existing recovery and resilience plans in Europe for young people and youth services should be continued to ensure that the views of young people are taken into account in the process of drawing up their blueprint for Europe's post-crisis future.