

Youth Partnership

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



Symposium VISIBLE VALUE: Growing youth work in Europe

31 May – 1 June 2023, European Youth Centre Budapest

Concept note

Rationale

The European Union and the Council of Europe have decided in 2020 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 (EYWA) was developed, coming from the European Union's Youth Sector Strategy 2019-2027 and the Council of Europe's Recommendation on youth work¹ adopted in 2017. This new framework was adopted by the December 2020 EU Council resolution² on the EYWA, which notably suggests assigning a specific role to the [EU-Council of Europe Youth Partnership](#) in ensuring synergies and facilitating dialogue for youth workers.

In this context, the Youth Partnership is organising a European community of practice meeting on youth work development and the implementation of the European Youth Work Agenda. Over the past decades, the Youth Partnership has carried out research and capacity building activities on youth work, supporting the partner institutions with thematic and strategic development in this field (list of published resources available below). This work strives to provide the youth work community of

¹ [Council of Europe Recommendation CM/Rec \(2017\)4 of the Committee of Ministers on youth work](#)

² [EU Council Resolution on the European Youth Work Agenda 2020/C 415/01](#)

practice with knowledge, expertise and support for strengthening youth work policy, education, quality and recognition.

VISIBLE VALUE: Growing youth work in Europe

The Symposium “Visible Value: growing youth work in Europe” is organised at mid-point between two European Youth Work Conventions. It builds upon the steps taken by the community of practice to develop, improve, and strengthen youth work in Europe since the 3rd Youth Work Convention and push forward the European Youth Work Agenda, while generating ideas for the next European Youth Work Convention to be held in 2025.

The Symposium will provide a space to the European youth work community of practice for networking, sharing tools for practical support, and for discussing latest research findings on youth work development. It will also offer a room for an active dialogue about what action and support is needed for stepping up the pace towards a strengthened, structured, and recognised youth work throughout Europe, and for reflecting on emerging trends and issues.

Thematically, the activity sets out to cover the eight areas defined in the final declaration of the 3rd European Youth Work Convention titled ‘Signposts for the Future.’ At the same time, it also intends to acknowledge specific priorities of local youth work in Europe, changing realities, and challenges. The Symposium will cover education of youth workers, recognition, mental health, sustainability, the role of youth work in peacebuilding, the policy environment, the role and situation of youth workers’ associations and national community of practice and be a space for good practice sharing. The programme will be shaped by the participants’ interests, needs and experience expressed in their application.

The event will also include a panel marking the 25th anniversary of the Youth Partnership, with representatives of the Council of Europe, the European Commission, public authorities, and youth organisations.

Purpose and expected outcomes

The Symposium “Visible Value: growing youth work in Europe” 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.

The event's expected outcomes include:

- initiatives and good practices on youth work development and the implementation of the EYWA;
- analysis of the Youth Partnership's overall work on the topic;
- strengthening the implementation architecture for the EYWA at European, national and local levels;
- practical conclusions on the objectives, priorities and support needed for youth work development in Europe based on latest research findings on youth work policy and practice;
- concrete suggestions for the Youth Partnership and its partner institutions for better support to youth work development and the implementation the EYWA;
- ideas for the next European Youth Work Convention;
- feedback on a draft Youth Work Strategies manual, developed by the Youth Partnership.

Target group

Up to 120 participants from the youth work community of practice, including: researchers, policymakers from local to European level, representatives of associations of youth workers, public sector, paid professional and volunteer youth workers, youth organisations delivering youth work, youth representatives, young people, etc.

Dates and venue

The activity will take place on 31 May-1 June 2023, at the European Youth Centre Budapest, Hungary. Participants will be expected to arrive on Tuesday, 30 May and depart on Friday, 2 June. Travel and accommodation costs will be covered by the EU-Council of Europe Youth Partnership.

Support materials on youth work

The Youth Partnerships has developed studies, publications, and capacity building materials on youth work over the past decades. They provide a basis for developing youth work in Europe, as well as for this upcoming event.

Publications :

- [History of Youth Work](#) series (Volumes 1-7; 2009 - 2019)
- [Youth Knowledge Book #20 - Thinking seriously about youth work. And how to prepare people to do it](#) (2017)
- [Youth Knowledge Book #26 - Youth worker education in Europe: Policies, structures, practices](#) (2020)
- [Youth work essentials](#) (2020)
- [Training kits](#) (T-kits, 2000 - ongoing) - methodological publications for trainers, facilitators, youth workers. See especially "[T-kit 7: European citizenship in youth work](#)", "[T-Kit 10: Educational Evaluation in Youth Work](#)", "[T-Kit 11 Mosaic: The training kit for Euro-Mediterranean youth work](#)", "[T-kit 13: Sustainability and youth work](#)".
- [Insights into developing the youth work environment: A thinking and action kit](#) (2022)
- [Coyote youth work magazine](#) :
 - [Issue # 16 The power of youth work](#) (2010)

- [Issue # 20 What's extreme about youth work](#) (2014)
- [Issue # 26 Smart youth work](#) (2018)
- [Issue #31 on the 3rd European Youth Work Convention](#) (2021)
- [Infographics on Youth Work Environment and Practices Architectures](#) (2022)

Studies, research, and papers:

- Studies and working papers produced by the [Expert group on researching education and career paths of youth workers](#) (2019-2020)
- Analytical paper on [Youth worker education in Europe. Policies, structures, practices](#) (2020)
- *Handbook “Visible Value: Growing Youth Work in Europe”* (to be published soon), based on the regional seminar on the implementation of the European Youth Work Agenda in Eastern and Southeast Europe, held in November 2022.
- [Sustainability checklist “Greening the youth sector”](#) (2021) - for practitioners in the youth field
- [Report of the peer learning activity on Higher Education of Youth Workers](#) (2022) and related study on [Competence frameworks and competence-based approaches in youth worker education and training in five European countries](#) (2022)
- Studies on [youth work in Eastern Europe \(2020\)](#) and [youth work in Southeast Europe](#) (2022)
- [European youth work policy goals analysed](#) - The role of the EU-Council of Europe Youth Partnership in the interplay between the European Union and the Council of Europe (2022)
- Study [Technology and the new power dynamics: limitations of digital youth work](#) (2022)
- Thematic section of the [Covid-19 Youth Knowledge Hub](#) (ongoing) dedicated to youth work – a collection of resources on the impact of the pandemic on youth work.
- [Youth specialists’ perspectives on AI](#) (forthcoming)
- *Handbook “Visible Value: Growing Youth Work in Europe”* (to be published soon), based on the regional seminar on the implementation of the European Youth Work Agenda in Eastern and Southeast Europe, held in November 2022.

Other resources:

- [Visible Value library on youth work recognition](#) (2022)
- [MOOC on Essentials of Youth Work](#) (3rd edition launched in 2022)
- UNDER 30! the podcast series (see selection of episodes):
 - [Quality and standards in youth work](#) (2020)
 - [Youth workers: values and ethics](#) (2020)
 - [History of youth work](#) (2020)
- Resources related to the [European Platform on Learning Mobility](#) in the youth field (EPLM)
- The Youth Partnership also supported the organisation of the three [European Youth Work Conventions](#) and hosts related on-line documentation from the first two Conventions.

Further resources and analysis will be developed in support of the Symposium.