

Youth Partnership

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



Growing youth work in Eastern and Southeast Europe: knowledge, realities and ideas for the future

Seminar on the European Youth Work Agenda

29-30 November 2023

Venue tbc

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 has organised in 2022 a [regional seminar on the European Youth Work Agenda](#) in Sarajevo, and the [Symposium Visible Value: growing youth work in Europe](#), in Budapest in May 2023, to ensure continuous sustained dialogue in the community of practice on specific topics and overall development of youth work. 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 (see a list of published resources below). This work strives to provide the youth work community of practice with knowledge, expertise and support for strengthening youth work policy, education, quality and recognition.

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](#)

Growing youth work in Eastern and Southeast Europe

The seminar is organised as a follow up to the Visible Value regional seminar and the Symposium to explore in-depth the context in which youth work is developed, the situation of the practitioners and the way the youth work ecosystem is evolving at national, local and regional levels. The seminar will focus on identifying good practices and building on them, as well as disseminating latest research results - notably through the Visible Value handbook, the draft Youth Work Strategies manual, the review of the Youth Work Recommendation and the two thematic studies on models of youth work recognition and mapping the European youth work ecosystem.

It will also offer a room for an active dialogue about the support needed for a strengthened, structured, and recognised youth work in Southeast and Eastern Europe, and for reflecting on how the Youth Partnership and European level actors can support initiatives in the two regions in the future.

Purpose and expected outcomes

The seminar aims at:

- 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;
- 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;
- presenting related initiatives and achievements of the Council of Europe and of the European Union and their Youth Partnership;
- identifying specific support needs on youth work development that can be addressed in the next Youth Partnership work programme, with special regard to Southeast and Eastern Europe.

The event's expected outcomes include:

- dissemination of research findings and good practice on youth work development, collected through the Youth Partnership;
- building capacities of the network of youth work experts involved in and supporting the various projects and activities of the Youth Partnership;
- practical conclusions on the objectives, priorities and support needed for youth work development in Eastern and Southeast Europe for the next Youth Partnership programming period;
- reflection with the advisory group of the Pool of European Youth Researchers (PEYR) on strengthening the research dimension of EYWA implementation in the next programme and how the two networks of the Youth Partnership – PEYR and the European Knowledge Centre for youth policy correspondents – can support that work better;

- 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 60 participants from the youth work community of practice, including: researchers, policymakers from local to regional 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 29-30 November 2023, venue to be confirmed. Participants will be expected to arrive on Tuesday 28 November and depart on Friday 1 December. Travel and accommodation costs will be covered by the EU-Council of Europe Youth Partnership.

Support materials on youth work

The Youth Partnership 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. The seminar will be held in English and will include facilitation and graphic reporting.

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)

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 \(2020\)](#)
- [Sustainability checklist “Greening the youth sector”](#) (2021) - for practitioners in the youth field
- 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.
- [Report of the peer learning activity on Higher Education of Youth Workers](#) (2022)
- 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.
- [Automating youth work: youth workers’ views on AI](#) (2023)
- [Compendium of background readings on youth work related publications of the Partnership. Summary \(2023\)](#)

Other resources:

- [Visible Value library on youth work recognition](#) (2022)
- [MOOC on Essentials of Youth Work \(self-paced edition\)](#)
- 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)
- [Infographics on Youth Work Environment and Practices Architectures](#) (2022)
- Resources related to the [European Platform on Learning Mobility](#) in the youth field (EPLM)
- Resources related to the three [European Youth Work Conventions](#)
- Resource page of the Symposium [Visible Value: Growing youth work in Europe - Youth Partnership](#)
- Resource page of the Visible Value regional seminar.

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