

4th European
Youth Work Convention



4th European Youth Work Convention Roadmap

The Roadmap

The Roadmap and accompanying timeline demonstrates how the conclusions of the convention can inform, underpin and feature in European and national youth policies and strategies in the years ahead. It is nevertheless important to note that this strategic approach, which will guide the work of all stakeholders in the coming years, may be reflected in future policies in a variety of ways and take different concrete forms.

2010

Belgium
1st EYWC –
Declaration

2015

Belgium
2nd EYWC –
Declaration

2020

Germany
3rd EYWC –
European Youth Work
Agenda (EYWA)

May 2025

Malta
4th EYWC –
Youthwork Xcelerate
– A roadmap towards
a European strategy
for youth work
policy development,
implementation,
recognition and
quality practice

October 2025

Declaration of
the 10th Council
of Europe Youth
Ministers' welcomed
the conclusions of
the convention and
supported its follow-
up as a means of
prioritising a strategic
vision for the future of
youth work in Europe

January
2026

Publication,
launch and
dissemination
of report of the
4th EYWC

Phase 1

2026-2027

- European institutions, National Agencies, Member States at national regional and local level, the voluntary youth sector and the wider youth work community including providers and support services to consider and take appropriate action to give effect to the convention's conclusions.
- The European Commission in making proposals for the new EU Youth Strategy, post 2027, to ensure that the convention's conclusions inform, underpin and be an integral feature of such proposals.
- The European Commission and the Council of Europe, through the Youth Partnership to strengthen cooperation and coordinate approaches in implementing the convention's conclusions, focusing on its three central pillars: youth work systems, youth work environment, and youth work core. This includes in particular data collection and analysis of youth work developments at European and national level, the development of a new European Code of Ethics for Youth Work, as well as seminars and concrete materials on relevant themes (e.g. Critical thinking in the digital era).
- Initiatives under the European Youth Work Agenda to be reviewed and aligned with the roadmap and conclusions of the convention.

Phase 2

2026-2027

- EU Council Presidencies - in 2026 and 2027 - to propose measures, through the Youth Working Party, to give effect to the convention's conclusions, and in considering and agreeing the new EU Youth Strategy, ensure that youth work is a dedicated section or pillar of the strategy.
- During EU Council Presidencies, Directors-General for Youth to report on actions taken to give effect to the convention's conclusions at national, regional and local level.
- The EU-Council of Europe Youth Partnership to focus its future work programmes on promoting and co-ordinating and following-up the implementation of the convention's conclusions.
- The Joint Council of the Council of Europe (CMJ) to establish a Task Force to amend where appropriate the Recommendation on Youth Work, in the context of the convention's conclusions and adopt the revised recommendation by the Committee of Ministers by the end of 2027.

Phase 4

2028-2030

- The Council of Europe and the European Commission to further enhance cooperation and, through the Youth Partnership, commence preparations for the 5th European Youth Work Convention with relevant stakeholders, including the Alliance of Youth Workers Associations, to agree the expectations and aims of the convention.
- The Council of Europe to ensure that the convention's conclusions inform and are reflected in the Council's Youth Sector Strategy – post 2030 – and its implementation.

2030-2040

New Council of Europe Youth Sector Strategy – Implementation.

Phase 3

2028

New EU Youth Strategy – to include a designated section or pillar for Youth work.

1. Role of the European Commission in implementing the new strategy

Having regard to the conclusions of the convention, and in consultation with the Council of Europe, the Commission should establish and agree with Member States

- a shared vision, understanding and definition of the role and mission of youth work
- the values and principles that underpin youth work strategy and practice
- baseline and aligned approaches to, inter alia, quality and standards, monitoring and evaluation, recognition of competences required by youth workers and youth leaders, and codes of ethics and digitalisation
- through the Youth Partnership, facilitate, advise and support Member States in implementing these measures at national, regional and local level.

New Generation of financial support programmes

- Through the National Agencies for EU youth programmes, the provision of targeted EU funding mechanisms for the development of quality youth work and capacity building among the youth work community of practice
- Provide, inter alia, a designated funding scheme for an Operational and Services Grant to support voluntary youth organisation - not in receipt of or with minimal state/public funding – on an annual basis.

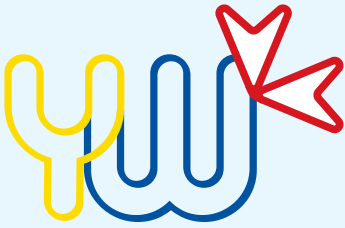
2. Role of the Member States in implementing the new strategy

Having regard to the conclusions of the convention and following consultation with the youth work community of practice at national, regional and local level, Member States should

- establish a legal or other administrative instrument to formally recognise youth work as a practice discipline, or include it in existing legal or administrative provisions
- provide for governance and administrative support structures at national, regional and local level for youth work practice, programmes and services, where these are not already in place
- strengthen education, training and employment opportunities for youth workers
- allocate funding on an annual or regular basis to support youth organisations that provide youth work based programmes and services for young people, where this is not already done. Commensurate or comparable funding could also be provided to voluntary youth organisations funded under the Operational and Services Grant.

From 2028 Onwards

Implementation of EU Youth Strategy and the strategic approach to youth work development by the European Commission and Member States.



4th European
Youth Work Convention



Final Note

From
Commitment to
Co-ordinated
Implementation

Youth work
Recognised,
Resourced,
Respected

No Policy
for Youth
without
Youth Work

From the 4th European Youth Work Convention (EYWC), Malta –
May 2025. Based on Chapter 6 (The Roadmap) of the Convention Report.



Presidency of Malta
Council of Europe
May - November 2025
Présidence de Malte
Conseil de l'Europe
Mai - Novembre 2025



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