

Youth Partnership

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



Steering Group on the 4th European Youth Work Convention

Concept note



GOVERNMENT OF MALTA
MINISTRY FOR EDUCATION, SPORT,
YOUTH, RESEARCH AND INNOVATION



GOVERNMENT OF MALTA
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER
MINISTRY FOR EUROPEAN FUNDS,
SOCIAL DIALOGUE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

Context

The EU-Council of Europe [Youth Partnership](#) together with the government of Malta is launching the preparation of the 4th European Youth Work Convention. The Convention (hereinafter the "EYWC") will be prepared and implemented by the Ministry responsible for Youth (Malta) through Agenzija Zghazagh and the Ministry responsible for EU funds (Malta) through the European Union Programmes Agency (EUPA), together with the Youth Partnership between the 28 and 30 May 2025, in Malta.

The EYWC has been an important regular forum (held every five years since 2010) mainly for youth work practitioners, but also involving other actors whose contribution is critical such as policymakers, researchers, youth organisations and youth service organisations to strengthen youth work development and identify directions to further support the youth work field.

The 4th EYWC aims to catalyse a collaborative and action-oriented dialogue within the youth work community of practice to strengthen the impact, recognition, and quality of youth work across Europe. This dialogue will be centred on finding and addressing emerging challenges and opportunities within the field, focusing on co-creating innovative approaches to empower young people and contribute to positive societal change.

Steering Group of the 4th European Youth Work Convention

The Steering Group will be the main platform for the preparation of the 4th EYWC and offer a room for regular exchange of information between the European Commission and the Council of Europe, and those who play a role in youth work development at European level. It will define the focus, objectives, and outcomes of the convention – steer and support the implementation of the event.

The work of the Steering Group will take into account the [EU Youth Strategy Engage, Connect Empower, Council of Europe Youth Sector Strategy 2030](#), the [European Youth Work Agenda](#) and the [Council of Europe's Recommendation CM/Rec \(2017\)4 on youth work](#). It will be framed around the outcomes of the previous three conventions; the declaration from the [1st European Youth Work Convention](#) held in Belgium Ghent, Belgium, 7-10 July 2010, the [2nd European Youth Work Convention](#) 27-30 April 2015, Brussels and the [3rd European Youth Work Convention](#) hosted by Germany on 7-10 December 2020 online and the projects and activities carried out by the EU-Council of Europe Youth Partnership connected to youth work.

The preparatory process will follow up on:

- The work and outcomes of the relevant Strategic National Agencies' Cooperations (SNACs).
- The [European Conference on Local Youth Work and Democracy](#) (20 - 23 February 2024 Brussels, Belgium) and its background documents - [Mapping Existing European Youth Policy Strategies on Youth Work](#) and [Taking stock. Where are we now?](#)
- Youth Partnership projects related to youth work, including:
 - Symposium [Visible Value: Growing youth work in Europe \(2023\)](#),

- The regional seminar [Visible Value – strengthening the implementation of the European Youth Work Agenda in Eastern and Southeast Europe \(2022\)](#), and the regional seminar [Growing youth work in Eastern and Southeast Europe: knowledge, realities and ideas for the future \(2023\)](#);
- Mapping study on [European youth work ecosystems](#),
- Study on [Recognition of youth workers skills and competences](#)
- [Visible value](#) online library on the recognition of youth work
- [Insights into developing the youth work environment](#)
- [Visible Value - Growing Youth Work in Europe: Handbook to support reflection and action](#)
- [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](#)
- and other studies and publications listed in the [Compendium of background readings on youth work related publications of the Partnership](#).

Any other initiatives addressing youth work emerging from the European Union and Council of Europe presidencies at national, regional and local levels of the member states.

Composition of the Steering Group

The Steering Group shall be made up of:

- European Commission (2)
- Council of Europe Youth Department (1),
- EU-Council of Europe Youth Partnership (2-3),
- European Steering Committee for Youth (CDEJ) (2),
- Representatives from the hosting country (Agenzija Zghazagh and EUPA)
- National Agencies (past 2 hosting NAs + another representative of the co-group)
- Alliance of Youth Workers Associations (1),
- SALTO Training and Cooperation Resource Centre (1)
- European Youth Forum (1),
- Advisory Council on Youth (CCJ) (2),
- Network of European Youth Centres of the Council of Europe’s Quality Label (1)
- International Youth Work Trainers Guild (1)
- Rapporteur (1)

Other NAs and stakeholders such as Eurodesk, ERYICA and EYCA, and formal education networks, will be invited to contribute to the programme of the convention during an extended consultative preparatory meeting.

Structures connected to the Steering Group may organise own extensive consultative processes to collect input from the respective part of the community of practice.

Timeline of preparations:

The Steering Group on the 4th EYWC is foreseen to have (online or in person) meetings.*

- First meeting - 23-24 April 2024 (Council of Europe Office, Brussels)
- Second meeting - beginning of July 2024 (Malta)

- Third meeting - September or October 2024 (online)
- Fourth extended preparatory seminar December 2024 or January 2025 (Malta)
- Fifth meeting online (tbc) - March 2025, with all facilitators, rapporteurs
- Sixth meeting – evaluation meeting – September 2025 online or in person

** The number of attendants and the number of in-person meetings is to be reviewed, depending on available budget and needs for the preparatory process.*

Dates of the Convention: 28-30 May 2025, in Valetta, Malta

Participants: up to 350 (including all team members and contributors)