

Programme European Youthwork Convention Mediterranean Conference Centre, Valletta

Tuesday 27 May 2025

18:00 - Registration

Registration will take place from 18:00 onwards at Aġenzija Żgħażaġh, Triq il-Kbira San Ġużepp, Sta Venera, SVR 1013. Join us at the National Youth Agency for the start of the Convention and the Maltese EYWC Festa Opening.

18:30 - Meet and Greet (until late including dinner)

An interactive and festive opening celebrating connection, reflection, and shared purpose. Participants will share expectations, engage with legendary youth work pioneers – Bernard Abrignani, Erik Langbråten, Antje Rothmund, Jan Vanhee, and Howard Williamson – and experience youth work in Malta.

Wednesday 28 May 2025

08:00 – Registration (if needed)

09:00 – Introduction

09:15 – Welcome Speeches

- Hon. Keith Azzopardi Tanti, Parliamentary Secretary for Youth, Research and Innovation, Malta
- Tobias Flessenkemper, Head of the Youth Department, Directorate for Democracy, Council of Europe
- Karen Vandeweghe, Deputy Head of Unit, Youth and Volunteer Solidarity, Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture, European Commission
- Nina Grmusa, Chair of the Joint Council on Youth (CMJ), Council of Europe

09:45 – From Germany to Malta: A Five Year Journey

This session takes us back to the Bonn Process and how it has shaped our collective path toward quality, recognised, and forward-looking youth work. It anchors the convention in a shared vision and maps the road ahead.

- Uwe Finke-Timpe Head of European and International Youth Policy Unit, Federal Ministry of Education, Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, Germany
- Frauke Muth Head of JUGEND für Europa, National Agency Erasmus+ Youth, Erasmus+ Sport and European Solidarity Corps, Germany
- Clotilde Talleu Manager EU-COE Youth Partnership
- Raphael Scerri CEO - National Coordinator European Union Programme Agency, Malta
- Miriam Teuma CEO Aġenzija Żgħażaġh – Chair of the Steering Committee for Youth COE, Malta

10:30 – Programme Overview and Logistics

11:00 - Coffee Break and setting up the Market Place
11:30 – Thematic Workshop – Session 1 Participants are invited to choose one workshop from one of three thematic areas: Youth Work Core, Youth Work Environment, and Youth Work Systems. Each area features five workshops, designed to deepen understanding, spark dialogue, and generate new ideas. Please select only one workshop—spaces are limited by participant numbers.
13:30 - Lunch
15:00 – Thematic Workshop – Session 2
17:00 - Coffee Break and Market Place
17:30 – Presentations from the European Institutions and their Partnership Three key tools are introduced as current strategic instruments to support the development of youth work. These tools represent the shared commitment of European institutions to strengthen youth work's impact. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CoE Youth Work Portfolio – Yael Ohana, Programme Manager, Education Training and Cooperation, Youth Department, Council of Europe • Launching the Youth Work Strategies Manual – Frederike Hofmann-van de Poll, Member of the Pool of the European Youth Researchers • Erasmus+ Supporting Youthwork - Jorun Bokloev, Programme Assistant - Youth Policy and Programmes, DG EAC-B3
18:00 – Plenary Discussion: Noise vs. Silence This provocative discussion explores the tension between the noise and the silence in youth work—what areas are amplified, and what topics are silenced, and how can the convention be the space to explore this tension. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Howard Williamson, Professor of European Youth Policy, University of South Wales • Caillum Hedderman, Board Member, European Youth Forum (EYF) • Dragan Atanasov, President, Alliance of Youth Workers' Associations (AYWA) • Nadia Tismanaru, Vice President of Timis County Youth Foundation (FITT) • Israe Aiach, EU Representative, Flemish Youth Council
18:45 – Conclusion and Reflections in National Groups A reflective pause for national teams to discuss key insights, assess what resonates most with their contexts, and plan how to carry the outcomes of the Convention into their national realities. A collective space to translate learning into action.
19:30 Dinner Buffet

Thursday 29 May 2025

08:30 – Registration (if needed)

09:00 – Introduction: Recap of Day 1

09:15 – Round Table Discussion: Young People's Experience of Youth Work

This session puts young people at the centre, sharing how youth work has shaped their lives, perspectives, and opportunities. Their voices remind us why youth work matters – and where it must go next.

- Katrina Lambert, Member, European YWCA
- Anna Knobbout, Bureau Member, Advisory Council on Youth of the Council of Europe
- Ángel Pérez Contreras, Head of International Affairs & Climate Action, Spanish Youth Council
- Nikola Blagojević, Manager, Eco Centre Radulovački
- Rebecca-Laura Bartolo, Youth worker, Aġenzija Żgħażaġh

10:00 – Sharing Inspiring Practices

Participants will explore real-life examples of innovative, inclusive, and impactful youth work across Europe in 15 diverse workshops. These workshops offer both inspiration and practical tools to take back home.

11:00 – Coffee Break and Market Place

11:30 – Thematic Workshop – Session 3

Participants are invited to choose one workshop from one of three thematic areas: Youth Work Core, Youth Work Environment, and Youth Work Systems. Each area features five workshops, designed to deepen understanding, spark dialogue, and generate new ideas. Please select only one workshop—spaces are limited by participant numbers.

13:30 – Lunch

15:00 – Sharing Projects and Initiatives at European Level

These workshops enable participants to connect, exchange ideas, and discover new collaborations through the projects and initiatives presented to them.

16:00 – Coffee Break and Market Place

17:00 – Preliminary Findings from Thematic Workshops

- Alice Bergholtz, General Rapporteur

17:30 – Panel Discussion on Findings

This session brings together key reflections from the thematic workshop streams, offering a synthesis of insights and outcomes. Panelists will react to what emerged, highlighting common threads, challenges, and opportunities identified by participants.

- Henni Axelin, Director for Youth Affairs, Ministry of Education and Culture, Finland
- Celine Martin, Head of Youth, Sport & ESC Development, Léargas, Ireland
- Marko Kovačić, Associate Professor of Youth Studies, University of Rijeka
- Bruno Antonio, Executive Director, DYPALL Network

18:00 – Final Speeches

- Rares Voicu, President of the European Youth Forum (YFJ)
- Matjaž Gruden, Director for Democracy, Council of Europe
- H.E. Ambassador Francesca Camilleri Vettiger, Permanent Representative of Malta to the Council of Europe
- Glenn Micallef, European Commissioner for Intergenerational Fairness, Youth, Culture and Sport.
- Hon. Keith Azzopardi Tanti, Parliamentary Secretary for Youth, Research and Innovation, Malta

18:45 – Thank you and Goodbye

19:30 – Reception under the Stars for Networking

You can look for more information on workshops and speakers on this [link](#).
Please use the App to book for your workshops



Presidency of Malta
Council of Europe
May - November 2025

Présidence de Malte
Conseil de l'Europe
Mai - Novembre 2025