

## Youth Partnership

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



# Advocating for youth work in Eastern and South-East Europe seminar

Developments, needs and challenges in light of the preparation of  
the 4th European Youth Work Convention

*29-30 October 2024*

*Skopje, North Macedonia*

## Concept note

### Rationale

The [EU-Council of Europe Youth Partnership](#) has been supporting development of youth policy, youth research and youth work in the two priority regions agreed by the partner institutions, including Eastern Europe and South-East Europe. To support the adoption of key European policy frameworks, such as the EU Council Resolution on the European Youth Work Agenda and the Council of Europe Recommendation on youth work, and the engagement of all youth sector stakeholders, the Youth Partnership organises regularly thematic activities in these two priority regions. In November 2022, a seminar titled [Visible Value – strengthening the implementation of the European Youth Work Agenda in Eastern and South-East Europe](#) was organised to reflect on the way the youth work sector and community of practice had fared since the 3<sup>rd</sup> European Youth Work Convention and what structures and mechanisms had been put in place to deliver on the commitments made. Outcomes of the seminar include a gallery of good practices and illustrations, as well as the [Visible Value handbook](#) to support reflection and action for promoting youth work development.

To maintain the continuity of the dialogue and to build on the accumulated knowledge of the past years, based outcomes of research and activities in the regions, a new regional seminar will be arranged in 2024, which will gather members of the community of practice and potentially also ensure links with the 4<sup>th</sup> European Youth Work Convention. The outcomes and lessons learned from the [Growing youth work in Eastern and South-East Europe](#): knowledge, realities and ideas for the future

seminar held in November 2023 were also taken into consideration when preparing this activity, with special regard to youth work development needs and the possible thematic priorities identified.

## Advocating for youth work in Eastern and South-East Europe seminar

The seminar is organised as a follow up to the two regional seminars in 2022 and 2023 and the Symposium (2023) 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 and the new [Advocacy kit](#) (under development), the review of the Youth Work Recommendation and the two thematic studies on models of youth work recognition and mapping the European youth work ecosystems. The event will also ensure visibility of a new comprehensive study [Youth work in South-East Europe](#) and the results of the Youth brain drain from the Western Balkans, the Eastern Partnership and Türkiye study.

It will also offer a room for an active dialogue about the support needed for a strengthened, structured, and recognised youth work in South-East 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:*

- Provide place for a continued up-to-date dialogue of the youth work community of practice in Eastern and South-East Europe about youth work development, topics around specific emerging needs and about the state of implementation of the European Youth Work Agenda in the two regions;
- Share information about political processes and latest developments concerning youth work at national and European level, considering the upcoming 4<sup>th</sup> European Youth Work Convention and the future of strategy and programmes of the two partner institutions;
- Offer guidance and support by informing participants about European resources and assistance, including tools and instruments developed by the Youth Partnership and the partner institutions;
- Collect and share good practices on youth work development in the two regions and beyond, with special focus to thematic priorities and advocacy and communication with decision makers and public authorities.

### *The event's expected outcomes include:*

- Audiovisual materials, for instance: podcast episode(s) (under the [Under 30' series](#)), graphic recording and visuals highlights of the main messages, etc.
- Updated analysis of needs and changes in the regions regarding youth work and related policies;

- Collection of good practices, with a focus on engaging in a dialogue with decision makers and public authorities on different levels with the aim of advocating for youth work development.

## Target group

Up to 50-55 participants from the youth work community of practice, including: researchers, policy makers from local to regional level, representatives of associations of youth workers, public sector, paid 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 October 2024, in Skopje, North Macedonia (venue to be confirmed). Participants will be expected to arrive on 28 October and depart on 31 October. Travel and accommodation costs will be covered by the 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 :

- [Youth work in South-East Europe](#) (2024)
- [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](#) and [T-kit 14: Value-based learning in mobility projects](#).
- [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](#) based on the regional seminar on the implementation of the European Youth Work Agenda in Eastern and South-East 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 South-East 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](#) 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 Youth work essentials \(self-paced course\)](#)
- 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 the 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](#)
- Resource page of the [Visible Value regional seminar](#)