

Youth Partnership

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



EUROPEAN UNION



COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

European Knowledge Centre for

Youth policy

Correspondents

7TH ANNUAL MEETING

MEETING REPORT

Agenda see Annex 1, participants list see annex 2

Opening of the 7th meeting of EKCYP-correspondents

The meeting was opened and EKCYP-correspondents were welcomed by Hanjo Schild (*EU-CoE youth partnership*) and Finn Denstad (*European Commission*).

I. Tour de table (correspondents' background, state of play of their provision of knowledge to the EKCYP, issues for discussion)

Given the relevant number of newly nominated correspondents who took part in a meeting of correspondents for the first time (correspondents from Slovenia, Ukraine, France, Malta, Lithuania, Poland and Spain), an extensive presentation round was held, focusing on the institutional background of correspondents and the status of their knowledge provision to EKCYP. Most correspondents do belong to the diverse group of policy makers, the second biggest group belongs to the field of research and one correspondents is from the field of youth work and working in an NGO.

II. Updates from the two institutions on recent developments in the field of better knowledge of youth.

For the European Commission, Finn Denstad gave an update on the latest developments in the field of better knowledge. He made specific reference to the following developments:

- Indicators on youth: the indicators on youth developed by the expert group on EU youth indicators have been made available on the website of Eurostat at http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/employment_social_policy_equality/youth_policy/dashboard_youth.
- The results of a Flash Eurobarometer on Youth on the Move have been published in May and are available at http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/flash/fl_319a_sum_en.pdf and http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/flash/fl_319b_sum_en.pdf
- Two major studies, on youth participation and on the value of youth work have been launched by the European Commission. Whereas the study on youth participation (performed by London School of Economics) are expected in June 2012, the tenders procedure for the second study will close 1st December 2011
- EC is working on a new European youth portal to allow for participation and volunteering of young people
- The structure of DG EAC is currently under revision and will consist of two major programmes from 2014: "Erasmus for all" (covering education

- & youth) "Creative Europe" (covering culture and creativity. The proposed budget increase for "Erasmus for all" is a substantial 73 %.
- The priority of the present and forthcoming EU presidencies are "Youth in the World (Poland), "creativity and innovation in youth participation" (Denmark) and Social Inclusion and Participation (Cyprus).

On behalf of the new Head of the Council of Europe youth department, Mr. Ulrich Bunjes, Hanjo Schild gave a short update on the reform of the Council of Europe and the recent developments in the EU-CoE youth partnership.

In the framework of the reform of the Council of Europe (http://www.coe.int/t/reform/default_en.asp) the structure of its secretariat was modified as of 1st October. A single *Directorate General of Programmes* was created, comprising *Directorate General I. Human Rights and Rule of Law* and *Directorate General II. Democracy*. The latter includes *Democratic Citizenship and Participation Directorate*, headed by Ms Ólöf Olafsdottir (formerly the Director of Education and Languages). The Youth Department is a part of this Directorate.

Also the EU-CoE youth partnership team has undergone staff changes, although not related to the reform. As of 1st October Marta Medlinska took over the overall coordination of the project, while Hanjo Schild, continuously in the EU-CoE youth partnership, will focus on external relations and specific projects. The two research and policy officers of the EU-CoE youth partnership, Srd Kisevic and Philipp Boetzelen, are now well established in the liaison office of the Council of Europe in Brussels.

III. Recent information on EKCYP and ideas for an enhanced EKCYP supporting the knowledge transfer between research, policy and practice (follow up of the consultation meeting with MS in spring)

Philipp Boetzelen updated participants concerning developments related to EKCYP and presented some reflections of the EU-CoE partnership on the future development of EKCYP. In line with the results of a consultation meeting with interested MS in spring (see minutes attached herewith), EKCYP should be develop from a depository of knowledge into a more flexible and proactive policy support scheme offering ready made, relevant and critically-reviewed information for youth policy makers and practitioners from the European to the local level (see presentation attached).



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consultation mee...



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Participants welcomed the suggested direction of EKCYP development and shared the following observations:

- strong support for more targeted information as the numerous messages sent through the existing news service did not take into account specific interests of EKCYP users
- by providing real-time information on developments in specific policy areas, EKCYP could support peer learning and hence be of use for policy development in different countries
- awareness of EKCYP could be raised by providing a link to EKCYP together with a short description or manual on websites of youth policy bodies and cooperation partners in different countries
- in order to ease the reception of information provided in English, a short introduction written in different national languages could be a helpful instrument
- specification of policy makers as principal target group is welcomed; it is therefore disappointing that this target group hardly uses EKCYP so far.

IV. Information on the upcoming European youth report 2012 (Finn Denstad, DG EAC) (A) and on the related analysis of EKCYP information templates on volunteering and participation (B)

(A)

Finn Denstad informed participants on the upcoming European Union Youth Report (see ppt attached). EU youth reports should be drawn up by the Commission at the end of each of the three work cycles of the European Commission. The upcoming EU Youth Report will have a thematic focus on the presidency priorities employment and participation and will consist of two parts: A joint Council-Commission report (political part), and supporting documents (statistical and analytical part). The EU Youth report will be drafted by the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) under the supervision of the DG EAC youth policy unit. It will evaluate progress made towards the overall objectives of the present policy framework, as well as progress regarding the priorities defined for the most recent work cycle as well as identify good practices. Beyond specific web-based questionnaires to the MS, the report will be based on the EKCYP correspondent's contributions on participation and volunteering and the related summary report drafted by two experts from the Pool of European Youth Researchers (PEYR).

In the future it is envisaged to gather information on two new topics through EKCYP questionnaires every year which should be used for future EU Youth Reports.

(B)

Two PEYR researchers (Kateryna Shalayeva and Manfred Zentner) have been contracted to draft a summary report on the 2011 correspondents contributions on and volunteering and participation. The summary report will be included in a forthcoming publication on EKCYP and will be used by the EACEA for the EU Youth report 2012. Presentation of the summary report at this meeting was scheduled in order to allow the experts to get additional information from correspondents present and to clarify potential misinterpretations.

Following presentations of the provisional results of their comparative reviews on the EKCYP questionnaires on participation and volunteering, the following questions/points were raised by the two experts.

Related to the summary report on youth participation:

- Is it mandatory for a) the state, b) regions, c) municipalities, d) schools, e) universities to install resp. to accept participation structures for young people (that might be councils or parliaments and the documents might be laws, acts, decrees, constitution, action plans....)
- In the formal education system, do subjects exist in school for all pupils where they learn the basics about participation (on constitution, the state, elections, their rights etc)
- In the formal education system, are there mandatory programmes and/or projects to experience participation in schools (e.g. elections, discussion rounds etc)

Related to the summary report on volunteering, Kateryna Shalayeva mentioned that not only the legal status of volunteering was different throughout the researched countries but also the shape of national volunteering services was not comparable.

Correspondents saw these summary reports as a good exercise to check on practicability and use of EKCYP questionnaires. Even if the new questionnaires and the related guidelines were perceived as a step forward, some questions were still seen as very difficult to answer.

V. Tools for connecting EKCYP-correspondents: Presentation of the EU-CoE youth-partnership platform on NING

P. Boetzelen gave an account of the pilot phase of the [ec-coe youth-partnership Ning platform](#) which was conceived as a communication tool and platform for exchange of EKCYP correspondents. The set up of such a tool had been asked for during the two last annual meetings of correspondents. However, for the moment the tool is not really used in an active way by the network. Participants reiterated that they would make use of the tool in so far

as possible; the absence of automatic alert messages raising awareness on new entries was felt as a downside of the NING platform.

VI. Question and answer session for new correspondents

In this session, new correspondents were given the opportunity to ask specific questions related to the duties of EKCYC-correspondents.

VII. Initiative for a regional youth knowledge centre in EECA

A participant of the EU-CoE youth partnership policy seminar in Odessa, Mr. Vadim Georgiienko, presented the idea of a regional youth knowledge centre, providing knowledge on youth policy in Russian language and assisting synchronization of national youth policies in EECA (Eastern Europe and Caucasus) countries with European youth policies. The need of accessible knowledge provision to support evidence based youth policy in the region has been acknowledged by recent reports on the state of youth policy in EECA¹. The idea of a regional knowledge centre for youth policy would also be in line with the national road map for youth policy in Ukraine, which underlines the importance of international cooperation. Such a tool would facilitate access to knowledge on youth policies, be a reference for monitoring national youth policies and facilitate expertise through the related network of youth policy experts. According to the view of Mr. Georgiienko the tool could inter alia be financial supported by the Eastern Partnership programme of the EC. In his view such a regional knowledge centre could be managed locally by a NGO and be administered by the EU-CoE youth partnership.

In the subsequent discussion it was acknowledged that the language gap still was a major obstacle for further use and recognition on the national and local levels, not only in the region of EECA. From the perspective of the EU-CoE youth partnership, translation of already existing documents into Russian would be the first step to enhance knowledge provision and support synchronization between European youth policies and EECA countries. Further institutionalisation and set up of a regional knowledge centre would need to be discussed with the Council of Europe and the European Commission.

VIII. Input from correspondents on developments on the national level

- Aleksandra Karlinska (Poland) gave an updated on the activities organised under the Polish presidency and informed about a recent national report on youth in Poland titled [“The youth of 2011” report](#).

¹ [EU-CoE youth partnership synthetic report on the reviews on youth policies and youth work in the countries off eastern europe & caucasus](#); Needs assesment report prepared for EC DG Devco

There will be an English version of the report which should be made available in EKCYP.

- Kari Paakunainen (Finland) presented the recent publication on a joint research project between Finnish and German researchers ([Youth participation in Finland and in Germany. Status analysis and data based recommendations](#)) which subsequently has also been translated into [Russian language](#). The study carried out by Youth Research Network (Finland), Bertelsmann Stiftung and Research Group Youth and Europe (Germany), consists in an analysis of youth participation in the two EU countries and provides data-based recommendations.

The bi-national comparison between Finland and Germany highlights that participation can be constructed differently in different EU countries: in Finland participation is conceived as participation within the constructs of State and Municipality whereas in Germany participation is a continuation of the civic society. The comparison discloses therefore, that the context of youth participation development varies and this should then affect how active citizenship and participation are shaped by EU youth policy.

- Marti Taru (Estonia) presented the recently launched national youth monitoring system launched www.noorteseire.ee. The system is meant to provide data on situation of young people and through this to support policy measures pertaining to young people.

The system has the following components:

- o indicators on situation of youth in society. Data come mainly from Statistics Estonia, but also from large-scale surveys, and is updated yearly.
 - o yearbook (currently in Estonian only, will be available in English). Yearbook has a general chapter on situation of young people and a set of articles focusing on a particular theme (labor market in 2010, youth work in 2011).
 - o policy briefs
 - o database of youth related research. The database contains information on research projects on young people but not reports.
- Barbara Zupan (Slovenia) presented the English version of a 2010 youth report titled “Youth 2010 the social profile of young people in Slovenia”. The report is available on the country page of Slovenia in the EKCYP (http://youth-partnership-eu.coe.int/youth-partnership/ekcyp/By_country/Slovenia.html).

IX. Further development of EKCYP and online presence of the EU-CoE youth partnership: Gathering input from the national EKCYP-correspondents

In the working groups a reflection took place on themes of future questionnaires covering the topics of better knowledge on youth - providing information on how knowledge on youth is created, collected and disseminated in the countries - and youth in the world (youth exchange and policy dialogue between EU and non-EU-countries). Further topics that could be of interest on national and regional levels are poverty, unemployment, social inclusion, migration, economic crises and generational aspects of youth policies. Even though economy is of utmost importance today and youth policy has to take this in account, EKCYP should continuously provide knowledge and policy support related to the core priorities of youth policy: enabling and fostering personal development of young people, providing equal chances and promoting an autonomous live.

Correspondents supported the further support of peer learning through EKCYP and came up with the following related ideas:

- peer learning could be supported through the provision of short (1 page) descriptions of relevant national action plans
- dissemination of policy briefs on up to date priority topics, outlining in a succinct way evidence regarding relevant potential policy approaches and strategies (e.g. information on how MS consult their national youth policies with young people, inter alia in the framework of the structured dialogue.

With the further development of EKCYP, also the voice of young people should become more visible, for example by providing information on the outcomes of structured dialogue measures or other consultations of young people on the national level.

It was proposed that the publication Forum 21 should be included into EKCYP as a main instrument for information and dialogue and thus potentially develop into a European yearbook on youth.

A revamped EU-CoE youth partnership website should assure an easy access to knowledge provided in the EKCYP database (refined search). An interesting feature to be considered could be the so called tag cloud or weighted list, a visual representation for text data which gives information about the most prominent issues requested by users of the website and can be used for navigation purposes.

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7TH ANNUAL MEETING
Bureau International Jeunesse
Brussels
20th - 21th October 2011

PROGRAMME

Thursday, 20th of October

09.00 Opening of the meeting by Hanjo Schild (*EU-CoE youth partnership*) and Finn Denstad (*European Commission*).

09.15 Tour de table (correspondents' background, state of play of their provision of knowledge to the EKCYP, issues for discussion)

10.30 Coffee/tea break

11.00 Tour de table continued (correspondents' background, state of play of their provision of knowledge to the EKCYP, issues for discussion)

11:15 Updates from the two institutions on recent developments in the field of better knowledge of youth.
Presentation and questions

12:00 Recent information on EKCYP and ideas for an enhanced EKCYP supporting the knowledge transfer between research, policy and practice (follow up of the consultation meeting with MS in spring) (*EU-CoE youth partnership team*)
Presentation and discussion

12.45 Lunch

14.00 Information on the upcoming European youth report 2012 (Finn Denstad, EACEA) and on the related analysis of EKCYP information templates on volunteering and participation (*Philipp Boetzelen, EU-CoE youth partnership and Manfred Zentner, Austrian EKCYP-correspondent*)
Presentation and discussion

16:00 Coffe break

16:30 Tools for connecting EKCYP-correspondents: Presentation of the EU-CoE youth-partnership platform on NING.
Presentation and discussion

17:15 Question and answer session for new correspondents

19.30 Dinner out

Friday, 21st of October

09.00 Initiative for a regional youth centre in EECA (*EU-CoE youth partnership team and external expert*)

Presentation and discussion

09:45 Input from correspondents on developments on the national level (optional)

10.15 Towards a new online presence of EKCYP and the EU-CoE youth partnership: Gathering input from the national EKCYP-correspondents working groups

Coffee/tea break

11.00 Report from each of the working groups

Presentation and discussion

12.30 Conclusions and closing of the meeting

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EKCYP CORRESPONDENTS MEETING

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