

# Youth Partnership

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



EUROPEAN UNION



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## 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Correspondents to the European Knowledge Centre for Youth Policy

18-19 October 2012,  
Bureau Internationale de la Jeunesse (BIJ)

## Report

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## Agenda and Participants' list see Annex 1 and 2

### I. Opening

The meeting was opened by Finn Denstad (European Commission) and Marta Medlinska (EU-CoE youth partnership)

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

#### European Commission:

Finn Denstad updated the participants on recent activities of the European Commission, starting with the recently released European Youth report. The 2<sup>nd</sup> European Youth report consists of three following documents:

- The official Commission Communication on the EU Youth Report and two staff working papers on
- the results of the first cycle of the OMC in the youth field (2010-2012)
- the status of the situation of young people in the European Union

The status report was drafted by the Executive Agency EACEA and relies on data provided by Euro Stat as well as EKCYP data delivered by national EKCYP correspondents to the EU-CoE youth partnership. Among other issues, the report highlights that youth employment will remain high on the EU agenda. For the coming years, the EU Youth Strategy should focus on the consequences of the current crisis on young people. This means a stronger emphasis on social inclusion and health & well-being.

As a second point, Finn Denstad mentioned that a [proposal for an EU Council recommendation on validation of non-formal and informal learning](#) will contribute to enhance their recognition as well as youth work.

Also relevant with regard to the provision of knowledge and information in the youth field is the development by the European Commission of a new web portal to improve communication in the field of youth and allowing for stronger participation of users.

Last but not least, he mentioned two studies that are currently run by the European Commission:

- The first is on youth participation and has been commissioned to the London School of Economics; it is expected to be released before the end of this year. It should contribute to give an orientation to the future work of the youth policy sector
- Related to the second study, on the value of youth work in the EU, a contractor has just been selected (GHK consulting); the results of this study should be ready in spring 2013.

### Council of Europe

In the absence of Ulrich Bunjes, Marta Medlinska presented the news from this institution.

First of all she reported on a change of staff in the youth department: Ulrich Bunjes, the head of this department has left and is currently replaced by Ms. Tina Mulcahy as acting Head of Department.

She informed that the CoE youth sector continues to work under the priorities set by Agenda 2020.

In the field of youth policy development, the last national youth policy review on Belgium will be published soon and currently such review is being prepared on Ukraine.

Shortly, the 9<sup>th</sup> Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for youth will be held in St. Petersburg (23rd to 25th of September). Overarching theme of the conference is the topic of youth access to rights in Europe.

Also related to youth policy, Marta informed on a Long Term Training Course on participatory youth policy organised in cooperation with the Turkish authorities.

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

Given the significant number of new correspondents who took part in a meeting of correspondents for the first time (correspondents or representatives from UK, Montenegro, Iceland and Finland), a presentation round was held, focusing on the institutional background of correspondents and the status of their knowledge provision to EKCYP.

Besides specific developments in the different countries, a common trend regarding the enhanced need for transfer of knowledge on youth policy making can be observed in a number of countries. This need is reflected by the set up of trainings for youth policy development (Sweden), the development of a course on the translation of research into policy (Slovak Republic) or the growing interest in EKCYP country sheets among national authorities (Austria).

Finn Denstad commented that this was a positive development, influenced by positive examples in some Member States. Marta Medlinska added that also the EU-CoE youth partnership is developing a training course on participatory and knowledge based youth policy making. An exchange on the different ways of conveying youth policy could be of mutual benefit. Ms Medlinska shared also that during the recent EU Youth Conference held by the Cyprus Presidency the importance of knowledge for (youth) policy making was stressed.

### **IV. Updates on EU-CoE youth partnership developments since the last meeting**

Hanjo Schild and Philipp Boetzelen gave an update on the EU-CoE youth partnership (see the draft progress report attached). Concerning developments related to the European Knowledge Centre for Youth Policy, Philipp mentioned the following activities since the last meeting:

- Summary reports on country information templates (Participation and Volunteering)

- Mapping study on national knowledge networks in 10 CoE MS
- Thematic chapter on youth and violence
- Publication of a booklet on EKCYP “EKCYP insights”
- Update of the glossary
- Cooperation activities such as the “7<sup>th</sup> Conférence jeunesse et Sociétés”, to be documented on EKCYP

As an ongoing task he mentioned the development of a renewed EU-CoE youth partnership web portal which has been delayed due to administrative obstacles which were to be solved between the Council of Europe and the European Commission. The new web portal can be expected in late spring 2013.

Regarding the timeline for current EKCYP contributions, the deadline for the information templates on Youth in the world and Better Knowledge on youth is the 4<sup>th</sup> of November 2012. Depending on the availability of national contributions, the finalisation of the summary report is envisaged for early 2013. The templates for collection of information in 2013 should be disseminated in spring (March 2013). Given the consequences of the present economical crisis and the priority of the upcoming trio of EU-Presidencies, the topic of next year’s country contribution will most probably be related to social inclusion of young people, including various sub-topics.



'Progress Report I  
AG\_2012 (6).d...



EKCYP update and  
outlook.ppt

## **V. Mapping report on national knowledge networks in 10 EU and CoE MS (Presentation by Robert Thomson, Pool of European Youth Researchers)**

Robert Thomson presented a mapping study on national knowledge networks commissioned to him by the EU-CoE youth partnership secretariat in December 2011 (see presentation attached). The following results of the mapping were mentioned:

- the knowledge based approach to youth policy making is explicitly recognised in the countries that were part of the mapping
- networks of all three actors (youth policy, youth research, youth work) have been created in half of the countries reviewed
- youth participation is more advanced than involvement of youth work practice (structured dialogue)
- the link between research and policy is the strongest (influence of youth work practice rather modest)

As possible gaps he sees that:

- Participation and consultation do not necessarily correspond to co-decision (this applies to youth itself and actors in the youth field)
- institutionalised links do not guarantee sustainable knowledge transfer (and vice versa!)

As a result it can be said that the institutional architecture of the national knowledge transfer is not yet very reliable; however, a more detailed consultation of national correspondents would

be necessary to exclude mere coincidence and to get further evidence of the ways the knowledge transfer works in a specific national environment. A potential follow up study could gather further evidence on the use of data (“what data are used by whom and for what purpose”).

In relation to an element he came across during the mapping of national knowledge networks Robert mentioned a cause for potential concern:

In his view, there is a risk that key figures (numbers, targets) rather than values determine policy and programmes as hard statistics tend to be turned into targets by high-level policy makers. In such a scenario, the “magic triangle” becomes a pyramid as data generation moves in to place above the other angles of the triangle.

Roberts’s presentation was followed by a vivid discussion. Many participants confirmed the tendency perceived by Robert with regard to a (sometimes misleading) “supremacy” of statistical data over qualitative knowledge. However, it was also argued that statistics were in any case never objective and generated data would give results according to the research question posed in the beginning. Hence, statistics could also be used by other parts of the triangle. Regarding a question on the potential (use) of practical knowledge from youth work practice, Robert said that the mapping did not produce in-depth information on this aspect and he recommended that this question should be studied in a follow up research.

## **VI. Session for presentations of projects according to proposals by EKCYC correspondents**

There was a great interest of correspondents to use this space for presenting their projects and/or national developments. Following cancellation of the speaker from EURYDICE there was sufficient time available for all the presentations listed below:

- Youth Policy in Azerbaijan (Lala Rzayeva)



YP\_Az.pdf (2 MB)

- Research projects from the 7<sup>th</sup> European Framework Programme:
  - o Prevention of Alcohol Abuse Among Youngsters in Europe AAA-PREVENT (Nicole Vettenburg)



AAA\_EKCYP19sept1  
2.ppt

- o MYPLACE - Memory, Youth, Political Legacy And Civic Engagement (Marti Taru)
- [www.youthpolicy.org](http://www.youthpolicy.org) - Global community and knowledge base on youth policy (Robert Thomson)
- Request for information related to a project on learning mobility (Susanne Klinzing)
- Development of an integrated national youth policy in Lithuania (Valda Karnickaite)

- 1<sup>st</sup> national survey on [attitudes of young people in Malta](#) (Jason Zammit)



Mirrors and windows  
2.ppsx

## **VII. Sharing ideas and options with regard to the further development and the future of the European Knowledge Centre for Youth Policy (in working groups)**

The future development of EKCYP was discussed related to the two aspects of knowledge provision on country specific information (i) and on thematic information (ii).

Regarding enhancement of EKCYP country information the following proposals were made /discussed:

- Use online questionnaires instead of electronic files when gathering country information from national correspondents
- Make available country information in the national language online when a version in the national language exists
- Improve/further specify indications related to information required in the respective thematic templates
- If possible, further adapt the EKCYP cycle of information gathering to national reporting on youth (allow for inclusion of end of the year reports)
- Highlight relevant points of the summary report on thematic country information on the website and/or make available the abstracts of the summary reports
- Allow for different ways of providing information (e.g. mind maps in addition to text)
- Consider providing a newsletter on interesting policy developments on the national level
- In addition to official country information, allow for shadow reports by youth NGOs
- Improve the overall usability of the website

Concerning EKCYP thematic information, the following points were made:

- Change the presentation as it is now (provider orientated) into a user focused presentation; the use of cloud search will indicate the most prominent themes searched by the users.
- Potential new topics of the thematic information section could be poverty, family, autonomy, housing, environment, migration, sexuality
- Review and, where applicable, update already existing thematic information
- Consider how information chapters tackling European issues could be translated into national information chapters

From side of the partnership it was confirmed that most of the proposed elements would be of common interest for EKCYP and would be pursued. Some of them had already been planned (online questionnaires, user comments on country information etc.) but were delayed due to the postponement of the website development.

### **VIII. Closing**

In his closing words Philipp Boetzelen thanked the participants for their contributions and the enriching discussions. He expressed his hope, that the new web-portal would contribute to advance knowledge provision of EKCYP and ease the tasks of correspondents. At that stage it is expected to have the new web-portal running before the summer 2013.

## **ANNEX 1**

### **AGENDA**

#### **Tuesday, 18th of September**

14:00 Opening of the meeting by Finn Denstad (European Commission) and Marta Medlinska (EU-CoE youth partnership)

14:10 Updates from the two institutions on recent developments in the field of better knowledge of youth and youth policy: Finn Denstad (European Commission) and Marta Medlinska (EU-CoE youth partnership)

15:00 Update on EU-CoE youth partnership developments since the last meeting (Philipp Boetzelen and Hanjo Schild, EU-CoE youth partnership)

15:30 Coffee/tea break

16:00 Tour de table (Update from EKCYP correspondents on individual situations) - Presentations and questions

18:00 End of today's session

19.30 Dinner out

#### **Wednesday, 19th of September**

09:15 Mapping report on national knowledge networks in 10 EU MS (Presentation by Robert Thomson, Pool of European Youth researchers) - Presentation and discussion

10:15 Session for presentations of projects according to proposals by EKCYP correspondents

10:45 Coffee/tea break

11:15 Eurypedia - The European Encyclopedia on National Education Systems (NN EACEA, tbc) - Presentation and discussion

12:30 Lunch buffet

14:00 Sharing ideas and options with regard to the further development and the future of the European Knowledge Centre for Youth Policy (in working groups)

Coffee/tea break

17:00 Report from working groups

17:30 Closing

Optional:

17:45 Question and answer session for new correspondents

## ANNEX 2

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