

Youth Partnership

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



EU-CoE youth partnership

European Knowledge Centre on Youth Policy

Annual Meeting of Correspondents 2015

Draft Report

Budapest, 16-17 September 2015

Venue: European Youth Centre Budapest, Hungary

Programme

The meeting partially overlapped with the annual meeting of the Pool of European Youth Researchers (PEYR).

Wed 16/09/15 14:30 – 16:00	Joint Meeting PEYR - EKCYP - Opening of the joint meeting by the team of the youth partnership; - Introduction by Partner Institutions: <ul style="list-style-type: none">o Ms Antje Rothemund, Council of Europe;o Ms Karin Lopatta-Loibl, European Commission. - Who's who: presentation of participants; - Update on youth partnership's work plan; - Youth Wiki initiative and interaction with EKCYP; - Synergies and interaction between PEYR and EKCYP; Future activities and possible contributions from EKCYP correspondents and PEYR.
16:00 – 16:30	Break
16:30 – 18:00	- Review of expectations expressed in the previous meeting, Malta 2014; - Pending nominations; - Review of job description for the remainder of the term;
Thu 17/09/15	
9:00 – 10:45	- Evaluation of working methods and collaboration with youth partnership team; - Presentation of current features and possible developments;
10:45 – 11:15	Break
11:15 – 13:00	- Visibility and impact of EKCYP; - Interaction with Youth Wiki, continued; - Next opportunities of cooperation.

Agendas

PEYR and EKCYP (jointly or separately)

- Opening of the joint meeting by the team of the youth partnership;
- Introduction by Partner Institutions:
 - o Ms Antje Rothemund, Council of Europe;
 - o Ms Karin Lopatta-Loibl, European Commission;
- Who's who: presentation of participants;
- Update on youth partnership's work plan;
- Youth Wiki initiative and interaction with EKCYP;
- Synergies and interaction between PEYR and EKCYP;
- Future activities and possible contributions from correspondents and PEYR members;
- Review of expectations expressed in the previous meeting, Malta 2014, especially in the fields of
 - o Recognition and promotion of youth work;
 - o Participation;
 - o Social inclusion and barriers;
 - o Learning mobility;
 - o Cross-sectorial youth policy;
 - o Peer learning activities;
 - o Visibility and recognition of PEYR and EKCYP
- Evaluation of working methods and collaboration with youth partnership team;
- Review of expectations expressed in the previous meeting, Malta 2014;
- Outlook at future co-operation among PEYR members and with the youth partnership.
- Next opportunities of cooperation.

EKCYP only

- Pending nominations;
- Review of job description for the remainder of the term;
- Presentation of current features and possible developments;
- Interaction with Youth Wiki;
- Visibility and impact of EKCYP.

Participants

EKCYP Correspondents

1. Mr. David HAYRAPETYAN, Armenia
2. Mr Marti TARU, Estonia
3. Ms Lihong HUANG , Norway
4. Ms Ewa KRZAKLEWSKA, Poland
5. Ms Stefania ROTA, Italy
6. Mr David HAYRAPETYAN, Armenia
7. Mr Vakhtang ASANIDZE, Georgia
8. Mr Jasmin JASAREVIC, Bosnia and Herzegovina
9. Ms Zdeňka Mašková, Czech Republic
10. Ms Susanne KLINZING, Germany
11. Ms Szilvia SZOMBATHELYI, Hungary
12. Mr Andreas HEINEN , Luxembourg
13. Ms Vanja KONTIĆ, Montenegro
14. Mr Bruno DEL MAZO DE UNAMUNO, Spain
15. Ms Tiina Ekman, Sweden
16. Mr Aleksandar KIRKOVSKI, FYROM
17. Ms Anna OSTRIKOVA, Ukraine
18. Mr Marius ULOZAS, Lithuania
19. Ms Lucia GALLIKOVA, Slovakia
20. Ms Tulin SENER KILINC, Turkey
21. Mr Maurice DEVLIN, Ireland
22. Ms Pink HILVERDINK, the Netherlands

Partner Institutions

(on 16 September only)

- Ms Antje Rothemund, Council of Europe
- Ms Karin Lopatta-Loibl, European Commission

EU-CoE youth partnership

1. Mr Hanjo Schild
2. Ms Tanya Basarab
3. Ms Viktoria Karpatska
4. Mr Davide Capecchi

A complete and updated list of EKCYP correspondents can be found here: <http://pjp-eu.coe.int/en/web/youth-partnership/-/the-european-knowledge-centre-for-youth-policy-ekcyp-correspondents>

A list of correspondents with contacts can be found here: <http://pjp-eu.coe.int/documents/1017981/1668179/EKCYP+2015.pdf/ab54fd52-ca6f-4dd4-84ac-1ad19778e259>

Key decisions and follow up

EKCYP would continue to carry out its work on general country fiches and thematic fiches. The latter would become shorter, more focused and more dynamic. Those correspondents that are involved in the Youth WIKI project will share some guidance on ensuring complementarity of the work. All comments and questions of EKCYP with regards to the Youth WIKI will be passed on by the partnership team to the European Commission.

For the next meeting at the latest, all correspondents will update their country sheets and will come prepared for a discussion on the structure of the country sheets. If no changes occur in terms of policy, the correspondents will inform the team so the date of last review is updated and available online.

The country sheet will provide under 2.1 within the chapter 'Context of national youth policy' some information on youth work, under the new heading 'Context of national youth policy and youth work'. It was also proposed to provide as far as available other relevant information on each country, research results, reports etc. This new information could be included in extended country pages.

The youth partnership team would send out a template for building the profile of the EKCYP correspondents on the country pages (these should be sent back with a photo). It will also inform the Council of Europe Steering Committee on Youth (CDEJ) of the main challenges correspondents face in their work, and it will send out official letters on the tasks required from them, addressing some of the challenges members of EKCYP face in their work.

The youth partnership website will be restructured and EKCYP correspondents agreed on trying to reaching out to other researchers, stakeholders and networks in their countries and on sharing relevant research on the country pages.

There was a request to separate the EKCYP meeting from other events and to hold it over 2 days allowing for more content discussion.

The correspondents' online profiles will be updated and enriched.

Proceedings

The correspondents of the European Knowledge Centre on Youth Policy (EKCYP) met on their annual meeting in the premises of the European Youth Centre Budapest on 16-17 September 2015.

The meeting began by a joint session with the Pool of European Youth Researchers (PEYR), where representatives of both institutions addressed the participants on their priorities and interaction with researchers. The joint meeting was chaired by Davide Capecchi, member of the team of the partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the field of youth, with support from Hanjo Schild and Tanya Basarab.

Updates on the priorities and key developments on youth policy in the Council of Europe and the European Commission (joint session).

Antje Rothmund presented the priorities of the Council of Europe in the field of youth and reaffirmed strong commitment to the youth partnership with the European Commission.

She referred to the newly restructured Youth Department, where most research undertaken under the youth policy division is done in the youth partnership through PEYR and EKCYP. CoE is also changing its youth policy review framework to ensure a more agile and dynamic service to Member States. Hence, Youth Department has reviewed its youth policy assistance package, including several measures:

Rapid response service (a country working on a special subject asks a quick question/request – for example, seeking a youth law including participative structures... and through the communication there is peer support offered, including good practice or taking it to another level of advisory missions.)

- a. Intending to set up peer to peer coaching system between member states
- b. Youth policy advisory missions (specific requests by a Member State on a national strategy or some other specific request). An expert team would advise the country without the obligation of conducting a review.
- c. Youth policy review – an option for those countries seeking such work.

There was a brief discussion of how PEYR and researchers in general can support this new approach of the Council of Europe Youth Department on youth policy.

Ms. Karin Lopatta-Loibl presented updates from the European Commission. She thanked the researchers of PEYR for their contribution to the Seminar in Malta, to the 2nd European Youth Convention and to the Symposium on Youth Participation in a Digitalized World.

Ms. Lopatta-Loibl also presented the new *EU Youth Report 2015*, launched on 15 September, reporting on the 8 priority areas of the EU Youth Strategy. The main message of the report was that more needs to be done for the social inclusion of young people in the EU. The Report includes detailed information on the targets set and is also accompanied by a draft joint report between the European Commission and the Council of the EU and two staff working documents. You can find more details here: http://ec.europa.eu/youth/policy/implementation/report_en.htm

Presentation of the YOUTH WIKI Tool of the European Commission and discussion in EKCYP on complementarity

Ms. Lopatta-Loibl made a short update on the YOUTH WIKI Tool that the European Commission is launching. The person in charge of the tool in the Youth Unit is Mr. Joachim Fronia.

The YOUTH WIKI Tool is an online comprehensive tool that will be regularly updated with information about youth policies and the situation of young people in different countries in Europe. The aim is to produce comparable information by EU Member States and by theme. The tool should improve knowledge and evidence supporting policy development. It would support youth policy activities in the 8 specific areas of the EU Youth Strategy – it should be simple and include information for the EU Youth report. It should give a general overview of youth policies in different Member States – its structure to be discussed between the Managing Agency and the YOUTH WIKI correspondents in the different countries. The European Commission is to make a proposal and partners to decide on the content.

The YOUTH WIKI Tool should include a description of the policy framework, organization and funding of activities, main actors, specific initiatives, main indicators covering the 8 specific areas of the EU Youth Strategy. Participants in the YOUTH WIKI Tool are programme countries of the youth chapter of

Erasmus+ Programme, including 28 EU Member States + Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, FYROM and Turkey. Erasmus partner countries could be involved at a later stage. EACEA should be managing the implementation of the YOUTH WIKI implementation and maintenance. It is aimed to be a model tool to support the work of all those concerned. Budget: Euro 555 000 – 650.000 envisaged for 2016. YOUTH WIKI started in early 2015 and it is foreseen that the first two chapters would be completed by the end of April 2016 while information uploaded before would be updated at the same time.

State of play: A Concept Paper was produced by the EC. 25 of 33 participating countries nominated correspondents so far. A restricted call was sent out to nominated correspondents. EACEA is developing a guide for the content. Chapters 1+2 – general overview on policy situation in different countries and voluntary activities are aimed to be finished by the end of April 2016 and a public launch is intended for early 2016. A web platform is being developed by EACEA – EC informing regularly the Youth Working Party of EU, Erasmus+ Programming Committee and EURYDICE Network which set up something similar in the field of education.

Discussions and main conclusions around YOUTH WIKI and EKCYP work complementarity

After a round of questions for clarification and discussions, EKCYP members agreed that while the Knowledge Centre had put its work on hold for a while trying to understand more how it could interact with the YOUTH WIKI tool, it would now carry its work along the objectives that it has had until now. Hence EKCYP would continue to work on providing updated country sheets on youth policy as well as thematic sheets. Once YOUTH WIKI is up and more information is known on its structure, EKCYP would reflect on how to continue to be complementary. It was also agreed that while EKCYP is a voluntary activity, researchers are very committed to their work and to the team spirit and the contribution that has been built. The researchers that might be appointed both as country correspondents of YOUTH WIKI and in EKCYP would try to give some guidance on how the work can be continued in both initiatives and the next meeting would assess again this question.

The youth partnership team has developed and sent a proposal to the European Commission on the place of EKCYP in this new framework, also based on the ideas put forward by EKCYP members. These opinions will be taken into account in the bilateral institutional discussions regarding the work programme for 2016 and beyond.

Presentation of the work programme 2015 and activities planned for 2016

Davide Capecchi went through the work programme of the Partnership 2015 and reported on the activities planned and carried out.

Revamping the website of the partnership and the place of EKCYP

Davide Capecchi presented the proposal for restructuring the website of the youth partnership. There was a brief exchange with the correspondents on how the EKCYP will look on the new website.

Strategic discussion on the future of EKCYP

Davide Capecchi shared with the participants a proposal from the youth partnership team to rename EKCYP into European Knowledge Centre on Youth (EKCY. This was argued to be more relevant for all the work of EKCYP and PEYR, highlighting also the work done during the European Youth Work Conventions, thematic research and sheets on the general situation of young people. Correspondents had mixed opinions on the opportunity of the name change, whereas there was consensus on that a new name would communicate a new start. This discussion gave a chance to the correspondents to

reflect more strategically on the development of EKCYP. There were opinions that EKCYP has developed a lot of knowledge and that all research and youth work is part of policy, therefore dropping the name could also mean losing part of that. The youth partnership team will take all the points made during the discussion forward to the meeting between the two institutions on next year's work programme.

It was also agreed that EKCYP correspondents would continue to update the full sheets and would also contribute to shorter and more focused thematic surveys. In addition, EKCYP correspondents suggested that there might be youth research that could be shared on the website and this should go on the country page, including in the languages spoken in the country. EKCYP correspondents are also aware that they could help connect other researchers in their countries to the work of the Knowledge Centre, hence making it a two-way communication and more proactive.

Working methods, challenges and solutions

EKCYP correspondents shared the main challenges they face in providing general country sheets updates and specific thematic ones. One challenge, for some of the network members, was related to validation by the ministry of the information provided. There was also good practice shared. Other challenges referred to unpaid work by externally appointed correspondents or to the question on whether to resubmit a sheet if no changes happen in the country with regards to youth policy.

On these issues, it was agreed that the youth partnership will draft and send out updated nomination letters to the Governments, through the respective CDEJ members, which would address some of these questions. The letters would specify the tasks of the correspondents, and they would also encourage member states that do not pay them to offer some financial compensation for their contribution. If no policy changes occur during a specific year, then correspondents would submit the sheets with a new date or inform the youth partnership team to change the date so the sheets are accurate and revisited. Finally, the youth partnership team would also bring this discussion up in the CDEJ meetings.

There was also an attempt to look through the structure of the country sheets and to identify whether some requirements are redundant or any information was missing. Correspondents suggested adding a section on youth work as that is a big focus of the youth partnership. It was agreed that ahead of next year's meeting of EKCYP, correspondents would update the country sheets and they would then come to the meeting having had a refreshing look at their structure. This structure would be revised in the next year's meeting.

Communication and outreach

There was a brief discussion on communication and outreach of the work of the Knowledge Centre and the resources available. The changes to the website should already help with this objective. If the idea of developing a European MA in Youth Work materializes, this will also help reach out to universities and encouraging them to refer to the Knowledge Centre.

There was a proposal to create EKCYP correspondents' profiles according to the model of PEYR members to ensure more clear country reference. This would then be updated regularly and be visible also on the country page.

EKCYP correspondents wished to be updated more regularly on the ongoing activities of the youth partnership.

Evaluation and follow up

Overall the meeting was assessed as positive, because it helped to clarify how EKCYP would continue its own development while the Youth WIKI is being built. Correspondents found it positive to have a good team spirit and commitment to future work together. They also requested a two-day meeting to allow time for more content discussions and proposed that the youth partnership work programme and other updates be shared by email in advance, to avoid passive information sharing.