

# Youth Partnership

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



**EU-CoE youth partnership**

**Correspondents of the European Knowledge Centre for Youth Policy**

**14<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting**

**Chisinau, 20 September 2018**

**Report**

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## 1. Key decisions

The main decisions from the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of EKCYP correspondents are as follows:

- **Developing Insights:** The manuscript of the first *Insight into Youth Policy Governance* was circulated. The second topic of *Youth Policy Monitoring and Evaluation* was explored in a separate session.
- **Youth policy monitoring and evaluation:** Based on a first analysis of EKCYP and Youth Wiki related to this topic, it was decided to launch a discussion on what national mechanisms and approaches are in place for youth policy monitoring and evaluation. Three different models were presented from the perspective of researchers/evaluators and policy-makers and EKCYP collected ideas on what information to gather. This will be a focus in 2019.
- **Building knowledge on youth work:** The first collection of country information on youth work covers 18 countries. All correspondents that have not yet completed the template are invited to do so until the end of 2018. A peer review session on comparability of data highlighted the need to follow closely the instructions and be clear in the explanations. The country sheets provide very useful information on the complex national realities on youth work. **Mapping educational paths of youth workers:** The mapping study was published and an additional *Diversity of Practice Architectures* analytical report was done based on the data collected through EKCYP. This is part of the overall objective of building knowledge on youth work, supporting the Council of Europe youth work recommendation CM/Rec (2017)4 and EU Council Conclusion on quality of youth work.
- **Strengthening EKCYP peer-to-peer cooperation.** The support group of seven members to help with preparation and input better into the youth partnership activities was endorsed for 2019. Peer mentoring will be made available to new correspondents and some mentoring pairs were set up.
- **Terms of reference for EKCYP correspondents:** the terms of reference will not change significantly and correspondents are invited to update the relevant information about themselves (published in the Resources section) to share national research available in English with the youth partnership secretariat so it can be published and disseminated via the country pages on EKCYP. Correspondents are responsible for maintaining the country pages up to date.
- **CDEJ members should be invited on rotation basis** to the next annual meetings to strengthen understanding of the functioning of EKCYP network and virtual library, and cooperation as a whole. The important number of CDEJ members present was seen as a very positive aspect of the meeting.
- **Contribution to EU Youth WIKI:** EKCYP continued to contribute to EU Youth Wiki, covering chapter two on four countries. In 2019, EKCYP will contribute to a new chapter in the EU Youth Wiki. An open space session to exchange on experiences of engaging with the two platforms was organised at the end of the day.

## 2. Introduction

On 20 September 2018, the EU – CoE youth partnership organised in Chisinau the 14th annual meeting of the Correspondents of the European Knowledge Centre for Youth Policy (EKCYP). The meeting brought together 31 correspondents, CDEJ representatives and invited experts.

The objectives for this meeting were as follows:

- Knowing EKCYP members (old and new), support group for EKCYP and strengthening peer-to-peer and network cooperation as well as contribution to youth partnership activities;
- Reviewing the contribution of EKCYP to the EU-CoE youth partnership work plan in 2018
- Gathering knowledge on youth work and on youth policy monitoring and evaluation
- Discussing the EKCYP contribution to the EU Youth Wiki and exchanging experience
- Proposing ideas for the 2019 youth partnership work plan relevant to national level youth policy and youth work.

The main themes discussed in the meeting were:

- knowledge on youth work, contributing to building up the knowledge base presented in the online platform dedicated to youth work, within EKCYP (ahead of the 3rd European Youth Work Convention and as an implementation of the CoE CM Recommendation on youth work as well as EU Council Conclusions on quality of youth work),
- initiative on collecting country youth information web portals, by Orjan Bergan, EKCYP correspondent for Norway;
- sharing manuscript of first Insights into Youth Policy Governance;
- national models and approaches to youth policy monitoring and evaluation;
- continuing to collect data on Youth Wiki thematic chapter 2 on volunteering from non-programme countries.

The meeting allowed those just starting as well as the CDEJ and invited expert guests to understand its functioning and role, and also to get updates on the current EKCYP projects.

From the meeting evaluation, most participants appreciated the sharing of updates, the focus of the meeting and on current projects and activities. The meeting should be a source for ideas for future work plans instead of presenting the ideas already and the mentoring was seen as a good trial for peer-to-peer learning.

### 3. Updates from the EU – CoE youth partnership and future ideas

The secretariat of the youth partnership began with setting the framework and provided an update on the main institutional priorities in the Council of Europe and in the European Union.

Then the activities of the EU – CoE youth partnerships were presented as follows:

- [Symposium Connecting the dots: Young People, Social Inclusion and Digitalisation](#) was co-organised by the EU – CoE youth partnership in cooperation with Estonian government on 26-28 June in Tallinn. It looked at the intersection between social inclusion of young people and digitalisation, reflecting especially on how digitalisation affects young people's lives, and what the role of youth policy, youth work and youth research can be in this respect. Analytical papers, four recorded webinars and all the documentation of the symposium are on the youth partnership website.
- European Platform for Learning Mobility (EPLM) will hold its next biennial conference in Belgium in 2019. [An expert seminar on the quality in learning mobility](#) projects was held by the platform on 15-18 May in Lille. All relevant documentation, including the developed quality indicators can be downloaded from the page of the meeting.
- The [seminar on active citizenship: young people and Europe, which way forward?](#) was organised in Strasbourg on 3-4 May. It explored the role of youth work in European citizenship education. This was an occasion to launch the updated Tkit on the same topic. Two analytical papers prepared for the seminar discuss the challenges of engaging with citizenship education in youth work.
- Several new [youth knowledge books, updated Tkits and handbooks](#) have been published. They are all downloadable or can be mailed posted upon request. Issue 26 of [Coyote on smart youth work](#) was published and the second one on the 20 years' anniversary of the youth partnership is planned to be launched in the last months of 2018.
- The updated and completed third edition of the [open online course Essentials of Youth Policy](#) will run in the last months of 2018.
- The joint seminar with PEYR looked at [strengthening youth research in Eastern Europe and Caucasus countries](#).
- The last seminar in the history of youth work series is co-organised with the government of Slovenia on 2-4 October in Ljubljana. The seminar looks at the [history of international youth organisations and their impact on youth work today](#).
- Finally, a [seminar on the situation of youth work in South East Europe and its relevance for youth policy](#) will also be held in Ljubljana on 13-15 November.
- The expert group guiding the research into educational and career paths for youth workers met on 31 May -1 June and looked into [systems for formal and non-formal education and validation of youth workers](#) across eight countries and three international youth non-governmental organisations. There are often requests for presentation of the findings of the mapping report in countries that are looking into strengthening educational offers for youth workers. Some EKCYCYP correspondents are involved in this process.
- EKCYCYP contributions to chapter 1 and chapter 2 of the EU Youth Wiki covering ten countries have now been [published](#). They can be found via EKCYCYP/countries/thematic contributions. Authors were selected through an open call as in the previous two years.
- 17 [EKCYCYP youth work country sheets](#) were published on a new thematic page in EKCYCYP/countries/thematic contributions. All other correspondents are encouraged to send in

the completed template before the end of 2018. The country sheets are an important source of information for desk analysis on different youth work aspects it covers.

The main proposals for 2019 work plan were shared with the EKCYP network. In the work plan cycle, September is the time when the institutional partners would agree in principle on the general line of activities, however, the results of the EKCYP and PEYR meetings are usually integrated in the last version of the proposed work plan. It is more difficult to propose new activities at this late stage. Ultimately it is the partner institutions that decide on the work plan. The **main proposals for 2019 are:**

- 2019 symposium: young people's values and political participation.
- Continuing the process of collecting data on youth work, on the national, regional and local levels, further research and dissemination of findings on education of youth workers. Support the European Youth Work Academy and Europe Goes Local projects with knowledge gathering and analysis. Updating Tkit on Training Essentials is foreseen for 2019, which would integrate a new dimension on online and blended learning.
- In 2019, the proposal is to organise the EKCYP and PEYR meetings in the South East Europe and to explore the same topic of strengthening youth research in those countries. The regional activity for Eastern Europe and Caucasus is proposed to explore deeper how youth work can be strengthened in those countries and what educational opportunities can be put in place for youth workers in the region.
- Continuing the work on youth policy notably through the youth policy residential seminars (4<sup>th</sup> edition), organise the MOOC on youth policy essentials; citizenship and citizenship education – support Is Europe really lost? conference.
- Conducting research on social inclusion of young people and digitalisation, on vocations and professions involved in youth work, on youth policy monitoring and evaluation.
- Develop an open online course on youth work, similar to the one on youth policy essentials.
- Editorial work on two Youth Knowledge Books, two new editions of Coyote magazine and launching the perspectives online – an exchange forum between policy-makers, practitioners and research.

#### **4. Building a database of general youth information portals at national level**

Orjan Bergan explained the initiative in Norway to revise the general youth information portal as a one-stop-information access point for all young people on any topic from education, to confidential health consultation, legal consult or information on leisure time. The portal employs experts in different fields who respond to young people's questions. Orjan began to map out such initiatives with similar purpose all over Europe. Several EKCYP correspondents received direct request to help understand if in their country there is such an initiative and that is developing into a resource that could be shared via the youth partnership.

Information on some countries still needs to be gathered so further bilateral communication will follow the meeting. The presentation can be found on [the page of the meeting](#).

#### **5. Insights: Youth Policy Monitoring and Evaluation**

In preparation to the meeting, the manuscript on Insights into Youth Policy Governance was shared. The idea of the Insights was launched in 2018 to make visible and translate the knowledge gathered by EKCYP for the youth sector stakeholders. The first Insights provides an analysis across countries in Europe into the national set-up of youth policy, roles for state-level and regional/local level authorities as well as how young people are involved. The publication is in technical production and it was not discussed much in the meeting.

The authors of the first Insights have identified a need to gather data on how countries monitor and evaluate youth policy, what are the mechanisms, what are the actors involved and how it happens in practice. Three contributions opened up this discussion in EKCYP. The correspondents then brainstormed on what type of information would be useful to collect and analyse in relation to this topic. An expert will be tasked to develop a questionnaire which will collect the necessary information for a new issue of Insights on this topic – to be drafted in 2019.

The presentations are on the [EKCYP meeting page](#):

*Youth Policy Monitoring and Evaluation in France* – gathering evidence from an experimental fund for youth initiatives by Malika Kacimi, INJEP, France

The Q&A session clarified that France uses around 70 indicators for monitoring compared to the smaller scope of the EU Dashboard, allowing for a more nuanced picture.

*Monitoring and Evaluation of Youth Policy Strategy in Armenia* – developing monitoring systems during the evaluation process, by Lilit Avdalyan, Youth Studies Institute, Armenia

The Q&A session clarified that as a co-founder, the state is a direct stakeholder in the Youth Studies Institute and the work of the Institute provides directly the knowledge base for policy-making so it has a direct translation to policy impact.

*Monitoring and evaluation of youth policy in Moldova* – challenges experienced by policy-makers by Ion Donea, Ministry of Education, Culture and Research, Moldova

The Q&A session clarified that due to clashes in defining age limit in different laws (Youth Strategy extending it beyond the age groups traditionally monitored by the National Statistical Institute) a new data collection methodology needed to be developed. In addition, working with different external consultants is challenging as their perspective does not often see the complex internal communication among different state entities involved.

The below is a summary of the proposals from the three groups on the important aspects to be covered through data collection on youth policy monitoring and evaluation as well as the type of publication on the topic.

#### **General reflections on the process and publication:**

1. Understanding the question. What is the target group of this publication? What do we need to discuss? Not one specific target group. Introducing monitoring.
2. Young people nowadays need a different approach. Focus on creative ways of bringing young people close to youth policy development. What is the role of monitoring and evaluation?
3. What is our role as EKCYP members?
  1. Get access to organisations which work with young people

2. Are we collecting good models of how youth policy is evaluated?
3. To promote the idea of evidence-based policy as this is not properly understood in some regions.
4. It is important to reflect first and foremost on evidence, in a separate context, not limited to the exercise related to youth policy monitoring and evaluation however a question on how evidence is explained/understood in the country could shed some light on this question.

## Topics

1. Monitoring and evaluation framework, tools and target groups
  - i. Legal or policy framework, political support and resources, involvement of various stakeholders Which institutions are involved in evaluating and what level (national, regional, local); is there an external structure providing an independent perspective? How is youth participation and youth involvement foreseen and how it happens?
  - ii. If the meaning of "monitoring" and "evaluation" is clear defined and distinguished
  - iii. When do we monitor and evaluate (annually, mid-term, final stage),
  - iv. Human and financial resources allocated/guaranteed
2. Indicators
  - i. How the indicators are selected and if they are clearly described, how their relevance is argued?
  - ii. What are the types of indicators (quantitative, qualitative?)
3. Models and approaches
  - i. To collect successful, innovative models, including online models or cross-sectoral approaches (for example if the impact of other policies on the life of young people is evaluated)
  - ii. Make comparisons
  - iii. Reflect if feedback is foreseen and supported?

## 6. Contributions on youth work

The *Mapping study* and the *Diversity of Practice Architectures* analytical paper were introduced in the beginning of the meeting and several correspondents mentioned that there are new or on-going initiatives in their countries on the topic. Thought it was a complex topic and process to gather the information for the study, it has put the focus on EKCYP as a source of knowledge gathering and analysis for policy-making and practice.

The working session focused further on a quick assessment of the youth work country sheets received and the importance of providing complete and comparable information. Marko Kovacic and Tomi Kiilakoski took the example of how correspondents answer the questions related to funding of youth work in three country sheets and how complex it would be to compare that information, because it is often providing numbers without contextualising it to the total budget or the youth population or other



helpful criteria. Seventeen youth work country sheets have been published to date and all correspondents who have not yet submitted the country sheets are encouraged to send them in before the end of 2018.

## **7. Strengthening the cooperation within and among EKCYP correspondents**

The EKCYP support group (Marko, Mariana, Ana, Tomi, Zdenka and Orjan) put forward several ideas for stronger cooperation of EKCYP between meetings and for peer-to-peer mentoring. The following ideas will be tried until the next annual meeting:

- Peer-to-peer mentoring, tutoring more/less experienced → groups of four, over skype, test the mentoring: Susanne will mentor Lilit, and Mariana, while Janaina offered to support the confirmed Italian correspondent; Orjan will mentor the future Lithuanian correspondent.
- There are still questions that this meeting is not answering: once per year for one day, and at the end not enough time to deal with all the questions. It was agreed that Tanya would send regular invitations to EKCYP correspondents to share relevant updates and research from their countries in English and the youth partnership would publish them on the respective country pages in the Knowledge Centre/EKCYP section.
- Divide EKCYP in regions, with contact points, in charge of channeling the information; this idea was partly welcomed.
- The countries without correspondents: In addition to approaching the CDEJ representatives, it was also agreed to try to approach individual researchers and Erasmus+ NAs or other possible stakeholders who could take up the work, to be coordinated with the CDEJ representative.
- Marko suggested that interested people could apply to COST programme (of their own individual initiative) to develop the network. Several people agreed to follow up on that proposal directly with Marko.
- Countries for which the history of youth work development is missing in the project are encouraged to submit their proposals. The youth partnership welcomes completing the country storie in that project.

## **8. Discussion on youth WIKI**

This was an informal exchange, mostly among the EU youth Wiki correspondents and therefore there is no specific reporting on this point. The EU-CoE youth partnership will seek to continue to encourage use of youth Wiki and will continue to complete Youth Wiki contributions from Erasmus + non-programme countries.

## **9. Discussion on other possible topics to cover in EKCYP**

EKCYP will be involved to various degrees in the following work:

- Youth work country sheets
- Professions or vocations in youth work
- Social inclusion and digitalisation
- Monitoring and evaluation, evidence in youth policy
- Cross-sectoral work with young refugees

- Youth wiki non-programme countries
- National studies and surveys on youth to share.

Mental health: increasing interest in the topic, although not all EU member states have seen it as relevant.

Young people in the rural areas: one of the cross-sectoral topics that is under-studied.

Culture and creativity of young people.

## Appendix 1. Programme of the meeting

### EKCYP 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting

#### Reference documents on EKCYP contributions in 2017-2018:

[Reports of past annual meetings \(including 2017\)](#)

[Mapping Education and Career Paths of Youth Workers \(report\) and Diversity of Practice Architectures analytical paper](#)

[Contributions to Youth Wiki from non-programme countries](#) and [Youth Wiki](#) database itself as well as background documents to the [new EU Youth Strategy proposal](#).

[Youth Work Country Sheets](#)

National information websites for young people (initiative shared by Orjan Bergan)

Insights on Youth Policy Governance (text circulated)

Draft Insights on Evidence, Monitoring and Evaluation of Youth Policies (text circulated)

<b>18 September</b> <b>14:00 - 17:30</b>	<b>Meeting of the EKCYP preparatory group</b>
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<b>20 September</b> <b>9:00 - 17:30</b>	<b>14<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of EKCYP Correspondents</b>
9:00 – 9:30	Opening of the meeting by Tanya Basarab, EU-CoE youth partnership; EKCYP contributions in 2017 and 2018 work plan Contributions from EU-CoE youth partnership team and correspondents that have engaged with the work programme Brief overview of PEYR contributions to the EU-CoE youth partnership activities
11:30 – 13:00	<b>Contributions related to youth policy</b> Insights on youth policy governance – presentation of the publication and discussion about dissemination  Developing Insights on evidence, monitoring and evaluation of youth policy Presentation of three case studies by correspondents and guests and discussion of draft as well as what information EKCYP could further collect for the insights
<b>11:00 – 11:30</b>	<b>Break</b>
9:30 – 11:00	<b>Contributions related to youth work</b> Where we stand and exchange on progress <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Country sheets</li> <li>- Education of youth workers</li> </ul>
<b>13:00 – 14:30</b>	<b>Lunch</b>
14:30 – 15:15	<b>Ideas for 2019 work plan and further development of EKCYP</b> Wrapping up, evaluation

<b>16:00-16:30</b>	<b>Break</b>
16:30 – 17:30	<b>Updates on contribution to EU Youth Wiki</b> Informal exchange between correspondents and guest experts on their experiences with the two projects
<b>19:00</b>	<b>Dinner</b>
	<i>Departure of participants</i>

## Appendix 2. Participants

	Name	Surname	Country/role
1	Mai	Beilmann	Estonia
2	Orjan	Bergan	Norway
3	Yaryna	Borenko	Expert Ukraine
4	Marialuisa	Silvestrini	Italy EKCYP/CDEJ
5	Ana Cristina	Da Costa Garcia	Portugal
6	Tiina	Ekman	Sweden
7	Tomislav	Gajtanoski	The “former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”
8	Lilit	Avdalyan	Armenia
9	Tomi	Kiilakoski	Finland
10	Susanne	Klinzing	Germany
11	Marko	Kovacic	Croatia
12	Zdeňka	Mašková	Czech Republic EKCYP/CDEJ
13	Lieve	Bradt	Belgium (Flemish-speaking community)
14	Anna	Ostrikova	Ukraine
15	Andrei	Salikau	Belarus EKCYP/CDEJ
16	Olga	Khabibulina	Expert Belarus
17	Irina	Drexler	Romania
18	Ivan	Hromada	Slovakia (CDEJ)
19	Rouzanna	Ivanyan	Expert Russian Federation
20	Kartlos	Karumidze	Georgia
21	Mariana	Turcan	Moldova
22	Ion	Donea	Moldovan Government (CDEJ)
23	Manfred	Zentner	Austria
24	Rita	Andrejeva	Lithuanian Government
25	Eleftheria	Christoforou	Cyprus
26	Janaina	Paisley	France
27	Malika	Kacimi	Expert France
28	Natalia	Radchuk	Ukrainian Government (CDEJ)
29	Maurice	Devlin	Ireland
30	Hilary	Tierney	Expert Ireland
31	Andreas	Heinen	Luxembourg

### *Team of the EU-CoE Youth Partnership*

- Tanya Basarab, Research and Youth Policy Officer
- Davide Capecchi, Research and Youth Policy Officer
- Mojca Kodela-Lesemann, Research and Youth Policy Assistant