

## Youth Partnership

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



# EKCYP-PEYR Annual Meeting Report

27-28 April 2023

Instituto Português do Desporto e Juventude Lisbon Youth Centre



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## Executive summary

The 2023 annual meeting of experts from the European Knowledge Centre for Youth Policy (EKCYP) and the Pool of European Youth Researchers (PEYR) took place at the [Instituto Português do Desporto e Juventude Lisbon Youth Centre](#).

During the intensive two-day meeting, participants engaged in interactive discussions and:

1. reconnected and exchanged on their research projects and current and upcoming priorities in the youth field;
2. discussed developments at the national level in the context of post-Covid-19 recovery, economic crisis and war;
3. identified remaining research gaps, challenges and needs of policy and practice;
4. got to know the updates on the Youth Partnership's projects and contributed to a mapping of priorities for the 2024-25 work plan;
5. connected with Portuguese youth researchers, youth organisations and policy makers.

The outcomes of the discussions indicate that specific research topics remain a priority:

- meaningful youth (political and civic) participation;
- young people's autonomy and employability;
- affordable housing;
- shrinking space for youth and civil society;
- threats and challenges to democracy;
- digitalisation and artificial intelligence (AI);
- recognition and validation of youth work/alignment with the European Youth Work Agenda;
- sustainability, climate change and climate anxiety (especially among youth);
- young people's mental health and well-being;
- the long-term impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on young people and youth participation;
- youth, peace and security amid ongoing war in Europe and the implications of conflict on youth work and youth participation;
- European responses and measures towards dislocated young people (and families) from Ukraine, juxtaposed to policies towards refugees/asylum seekers from the Middle East and from Africa.

The thematic priorities identified by the networks are also in line with the priorities of the two partner institutions, as listed in the [Council of Europe Youth Sector Strategy 2030](#) and the [EU Youth Strategy 2019-27](#), with focus on participation, young people's access to rights, youth work, digitalisation and sustainability and climate crisis.

In identifying the future priorities for the 2024-25 work plan of the Youth Partnership, besides discussing the topics listed above, the networks also emphasised the need for the Youth Partnership to keep investing in the mapping, analysis and conceptualisation of topics falling under the aforementioned thematic categories and documenting relevant developments at national, regional and European levels. The experts clarified, however, that what would be useful is not to have more research (in terms of quantity), but rather more detailed or more profound research/insights into certain topics, knowledge transfer, and better dissemination of research findings.

Participants also envision the Youth Partnership undertaking a leading and dynamic role in revisiting, revising and reconceptualising terms and definitions, with the purpose of establishing an updated, research-informed lingua franca among youth experts who produce and publish studies and, consequently, a shared understanding and jointly accepted use of basic terms that are commonly used in publications but which often carry different etymological connotations.

## Introduction

The annual meeting of EKCYP and PEYR – two [networks](#) of the Youth Partnership – took place on 27-28 April 2023 at the Instituto Português do Desporto e Juventude Lisbon Youth Centre in Portugal. During the meeting, members of the two networks reconnected and exchanged on their research projects and current and upcoming priorities in the youth field, they discussed developments at the national level in the context of post-Covid-19 recovery, economic crisis and war and got to know the updates on Youth Partnership's projects and contribute to mapping of priorities for the 2024-25 work plan.

The previous annual meeting (2022, Tirana (Albania)) had taken place after a long period of travel restrictions and online meetings. Furthermore, following the outbreak of war in Ukraine, European societies were living under the shock of conflict in Europe. Last year's discussions had reflected the heightened levels of anxiety and depression reported among young people, but also practitioners working with/for youth, while in their messages, EKCYP-PEYR experts had called for the adoption of "interdisciplinary and intersectoral approaches, focusing on the mid- and long-term impacts on young people".

The conclusions of the 2022 annual meeting had pointed to the need to invest in research that would address the role of youth participation in promoting the inclusion of underprivileged young people, especially those belonging to different minorities and/or those subjected to social inequalities. In this respect, emphasis had been placed on making research findings visible and available, while also ensuring their translation into concrete policy recommendations. Moreover, the importance of outreach and advocacy was highlighted, especially concerning issues related to young people affected by conflict and insecurity.

One year later, the networks are still focused on discussing the long-term implications of the pandemic, from the new norms of working and engaging with young people using online tools and innovative forms of technology, to the rise of social inequalities, threats to democracy and rising costs of living and housing. Moreover, topics such as stability, peace, security, social integration and international protection remain high on the European agenda. Concerns about the [climate crisis](#) and the [rise in eco-anxiety](#) among young people have also resulted in more space being given to questions of sustainability and youth-led initiatives and campaigns. These concerns about economy, security and environment combined have also emphasised the need for policy, research and youth work practice to prioritise young people's mental health and well-being.

## National realities and youth sector priorities

Experts shared updates on youth sector priorities and developments in their national contexts, following the Covid-19 pandemic, rising costs of living and the war in Ukraine, and they established commonalities and shared interests. Despite specific needs and challenges that might apply to different national contexts, overall, the following topics were identified as priority areas in the youth sector.

1. Education and skills development: improving the quality of education, promoting lifelong learning and enhancing vocational training to equip young people with the necessary skills for the job market.
2. Employment and entrepreneurship: addressing youth unemployment, promoting job opportunities and supporting young people's paths to autonomy.
3. Social inclusion and diversity: fostering inclusivity, combating discrimination and empowering young people from diverse backgrounds, including minority groups, refugees and displaced people.
4. Health and well-being: enhancing mental health support, addressing depression and anxiety among youth and promoting healthy lifestyles among young people.
5. Climate change and sustainability: engaging youth in environmental protection, sustainability initiatives and combating climate change.
6. Digital skills and technology: supporting digital literacy and ensuring young people's access to technology for education and employment. Moreover, equipping youth practitioners and youth workers with knowledge and skills to keep up with current developments in technology and AI.
7. Youth participation and civic engagement: encouraging youth involvement in decision-making processes, politics and civil society activities.
8. Mobility and exchange programmes: facilitating cross-border mobility, exchange opportunities and intercultural experiences for young people, without forgetting the cases of young people affected by conflict or being unable to travel due to protection-related implications.

## The impact of ongoing crises on national youth policies

The researchers discussed the effect of the overlapping crises experienced during the last years (the Covid-19 pandemic, war in Ukraine, environmental disasters, etc.) on national youth policies. Crises have often exacerbated existing challenges and created new ones. Implications can vary depending on the type of crisis (e.g. economic downturn, public health crisis, natural disaster, social unrest) and its severity. The following areas of impact were identified.

- **Economic impact:** in some countries, economic downturns have led to reduced government revenues and increased budgetary constraints. As a result, funding for youth programmes and services may have been cut, reduced or reallocated. This has meant a shrinking space for civil society organisations, especially smaller ones, with a project-based agenda and, certainly, fewer opportunities for young people.
- **Unemployment, underemployment and unaffordable housing:** many participants shared that ongoing crises have led to higher youth unemployment rates and limited job prospects, particularly for young people entering the job market. Unemployment has been combined with rising prices in housing, which have made rent unaffordable for many young people all over Europe. The combination of these two factors can result in long-term negative effects on young people's career trajectories and financial well-being. In some countries, youth migration has been on the rise (especially from countries of South-East Europe towards Western Europe), resulting in brain drain and ageing demographics.
- **Education disruptions:** pandemic or conflict-related crises have disrupted the education system in some countries, leading to school closures, remote learning challenges, and limited access to quality education. This can have adverse effects on learning outcomes and educational attainment, especially for vulnerable youth.
- **Mental health strain:** participants spoke of higher psychological stress and anxiety among young people, especially when dealing with uncertainties and adversities related with financial autonomy, climate, security and peace. In some national contexts, this has increased the demand for mental health services and has necessitated adjustments in mental health policies.
- **Social inequalities:** ongoing crises, currently related with the war in Ukraine, but also other waves of displaced people in need of international protection, have further exacerbated existing social inequalities. Vulnerable youth, such as those from low-income backgrounds, minorities or marginalised communities, experience disproportionate impacts on their health, education, and overall well-being.

- Migration and displacement: ongoing crises related both to conflicts and to natural disasters (fires, floods, etc), have recently led to internal and external migration and displacement of populations, including youth. In many cases, this has posed specific challenges for some states in terms of integrating displaced youth into host communities and addressing their needs.
- Youth engagement and participation: on the one hand, the pandemic had a severe impact on young people's ability to engage in decision-making processes and participate in civic activities, leading to potential disengagement or limited opportunities for youth to voice their concerns and contribute to policy discussions. On the other hand, some groups of young people found new ways of mobilising themselves and making their voices heard through the use of social media, technology, online diaspora groups, etc. This is also being witnessed with political participation and activism coming from young Ukrainians inside and outside the country.
- Digital divide: during crises that require remote work or education, the digital divide may become more pronounced, with some young people lacking access to necessary technology and internet connectivity. Moreover, not every youth worker is in a position to deliver activities online.

Participants agreed that crises provide an opportunity to reassess and strengthen national youth policies to build resilience among young people, enhance preparedness for future crises, and ensure their overall well-being and development. In response to crises, governments and policy makers need to reassess and adapt policies to address the emerging challenges and needs. Flexibility, innovation and cross-sectoral collaboration between stakeholders are key to mitigating the negative impacts of crises on young people and ensuring their active participation in shaping their own futures.



## Youth Partnership 2022-23 activities and thematic research projects

The Youth Partnership team [shared](#) their ongoing and planned activities on youth research, youth policy and youth work for the 2022-23 period and indicated a possible continuation of certain projects, as well as the need to identify new emerging priorities in the youth sector for the future work plan. Groups discussed the current research projects, gaps and knowledge needs in the following thematic areas:

1. Youth (political) participation (focus on gender, intersectionality, digitalisation)
2. AI and digitalisation
3. Young people's transitions, autonomy and economic independence
4. Migration and brain drain
5. Learning mobility (sustainability, community impact, quality)
6. Youth work.

### Youth political participation

Currently, youth research in different national contexts explores youth political participation as a crucial aspect of democracy and governance, which can be influenced by several factors, including gender, intersectionality and digitalisation. Understanding and addressing these factors are essential for fostering inclusive and meaningful youth engagement in political processes.

- **Gender and youth political participation**

Gender-based stereotypes and societal norms create barriers to political participation for young people, particularly for young women and young lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) people. Gender imbalances in leadership positions and political representation may discourage women or members of the LGBTI community from engaging in politics, as they might not see themselves being adequately represented.

Intersectionality, in terms of ethnicity, sexual orientation, disability, religion, etc., can further compound challenges faced by young people at the intersection of gender and other identities. Youth who belong to multiple marginalised groups may face unique barriers to political participation due to the compounding effects of discrimination and exclusion.

To address gender disparities in youth political participation, it is crucial to promote gender-sensitive policies, support youth from different backgrounds in leadership roles and challenge harmful gender stereotypes. Policy makers and other actors directly or indirectly involved in the youth field should create safe spaces for young people, consider their specific concerns, and involve diverse groups of youth in decision-making processes.

- **Digitalisation and youth political participation**

Digital technologies, social media platforms and online communication play an increasingly significant role in shaping youth political engagement. Digital platforms offer young people accessible spaces to connect, share ideas and mobilise for social and political causes. However, the digital divide can hinder equal access to digital spaces, affecting marginalised youth populations.

Moreover, online misinformation, propaganda and radicalising factors can impact the quality and objectivity of political information that young people consume. To enhance digital youth political participation, it is essential to address the digital divide, promote digital literacy and encourage critical thinking about online information.

- **Inclusive policies and spaces; raising awareness**

Creating safe and inclusive spaces for youth engagement in political discussions can help foster a sense of belonging and encourage active participation. Implementing affirmative-action measures, such as quotas or reserved seats for underrepresented groups, can enhance youth political representation. Youth research can greatly support this endeavour by identifying baselines (i.e. the percentage of representation of different groups in decision-making spaces). Education about political processes and civic rights and responsibilities can empower young people to engage in politics confidently. Raising awareness about the importance of youth political participation and its impact on democracy is crucial for encouraging involvement. Overall, by addressing gender and intersectionality concerns, bridging the digital divide and promoting inclusive policies and spaces, we can create an environment that encourages and empowers young people, regardless of their backgrounds, to actively participate in political processes and contribute to shaping their societies.

## **Artificial intelligence and digitalisation**

The increasing use of AI and digitalisation is having a significant impact on youth work, youth research and youth policy. Below are promising fields of youth research that can generate youth policy responses.

- **Access to information and learning opportunities**

AI-powered platforms and tools can provide young people with access to vast amounts of information and learning resources. Online educational platforms, AI-driven tutoring systems, and personalised learning applications can enhance educational opportunities and bridge learning gaps. At the same time, young people and youth practitioners might feel overwhelmed by the vast amount of information and a lack of skills for how to manage this information flow.

- **Skills development and employment opportunities**

AI can help identify emerging job trends and skills that are in demand, allowing youth policy makers to tailor training and skill development programmes to better prepare young people for the job market. AI can also assist in matching youth with suitable job opportunities and internships. A precondition for this is that youth workers and youth policy makers have the background needed to respond to these developments.

- **Data-driven policy development**

AI can analyse large datasets and provide insights into the needs and preferences of young people. In this sense, it can support youth research. However, youth researchers should approach digital tools with a critical attitude, keeping in mind possible algorithm-related biases. Policymakers can leverage AI-driven analytics to make more informed decisions and design effective youth policies that cater to specific demographics and areas of concern.

- **Social media and digital engagement**

AI-driven algorithms on social media platforms can influence the content young people consume and engage with. Policy makers need to understand and address the impact of AI algorithms on youth information exposure and online behaviour. Youth workers also need to be equipped with digital skills and to get acquainted with online youth work tools and methods.

- **Ethical and privacy concerns**

The use of AI in youth work and youth policy raises ethical considerations, especially concerning data privacy, algorithmic bias and digital surveillance. Ensuring ethical and responsible AI deployment is essential to protect the rights and well-being of young people. At the same time, there needs to be a discussion about the competences and knowledge needed by youth workers to address ethics-related issues online. Ethics is a fascinating and dynamic topic in youth research which should be further explored (the Youth Partnership has relevant publications that can be followed up).

- **AI-powered civic engagement**

AI technologies can be utilised to engage young people in civic activities and decision-making processes. Online platforms and groups can encourage youth participation in politics, community projects and policy feedback.

- **Disruption of traditional jobs**

While AI can create new job opportunities, it also has the potential to disrupt traditional industries and job roles. Policy makers need to anticipate these changes and design policies to support young people in transitioning to new career paths. Youth workers also need to exhibit flexibility and preparedness.

- **Youth-friendly services**

Access to youth-friendly health services, including sexual and reproductive health services, mental health support, and counselling, is vital for young people's autonomy and well-being. Youth policies should prioritise the availability of such services and ensure confidentiality and non-discrimination.

### **Young people's transitions, autonomy and economic independence**

Current research is focused on how inclusive, research-informed youth policies can play a vital role in supporting young people's transitions to autonomy by providing a supportive and enabling environment that empowers them to make independent decisions and take responsibility for their lives.

- **The need for quality education and youth work**

Youth policies should ensure that young people have access to comprehensive education and career guidance services. The role of youth work is also vital in providing mentoring and support.

- **Affordable housing and independent living support**

Providing affordable housing options and independent living support, such as housing subsidies, access to shared living arrangements or other youth-friendly social policies, can help young people transition to autonomy and develop their sense of responsibility.

- **Recognition of non-formal and informal learning**

Youth policies should recognise the value of non-formal and informal learning experiences, such as volunteering, internships and community engagement. Acknowledging these experiences can enhance young people's self-confidence and employability.

### **Youth migration and brain drain**

Youth migration and brain drain in Europe are essential topics in youth research and youth policy, as they have significant implications for the countries of both origin and destination. These phenomena impact the development, economy and social fabric of the regions involved.

The following aspects of youth migration have been identified as of particular interest and relevance for youth research.

- Research on youth migration focused on understanding the push and pull factors that influence young people's decisions to migrate, including economic opportunities, education prospects, political stability, and social factors.

- Challenges and opportunities faced by young migrants, such as integration into new societies, language barriers, cultural adjustment, and access to social services.
- The social and economic integration of young migrants in destination countries. This includes their experiences with education, employment, housing, and social inclusion. Understanding the factors/policies that facilitate or hinder successful integration.
- The impact of youth migration on the countries of origin and destination, including demographic changes, labour market dynamics and cultural diversity – a key area of study.
- Causes and consequences of brain drain, including the loss of talent and human capital, reduced innovation, and its impact on the economic development of sending countries.
- Policies and strategies to mitigate brain drain, such as improving domestic job prospects, investing in education and research, and fostering a supportive environment for skilled professionals.
- Return migration and brain gain: motivations for return migration, the reintegration process and the ways in which returnees contribute to the development and progress of their home countries.
- Policies that promote brain gain, such as offering incentives for returnees and creating opportunities for leveraging their skills.
- Policy responses adopted by various countries and international organisations to address the challenges associated with youth mobility. Effectiveness of policies such as migration management, recognition of foreign qualifications, integration programmes, etc.
- The impact of migration and brain drain on the identity and well-being of young people, including examining issues related to cultural identity, social networks, mental health and social support systems.

Youth research can play a pivotal role in shedding light on the complexities of youth migration and brain drain in Europe, guiding policy makers towards evidence-based solutions that can maximise the positive outcomes of these movements and minimise potential challenges for young people and society as a whole.

### **Learning mobility**

Youth research on learning mobility, particularly focusing on sustainability, community impact, and quality, has become increasingly relevant. Below are some key areas of research in this field.

- Sustainability of learning mobility programmes, with the focus on exploring the environmental, economic, and social sustainability of learning mobility initiatives. This includes assessing the carbon footprint of travel, the economic impact on local communities, and the social and cultural aspects of hosting and participating in mobility programmes. Sustainable learning mobility research may also

investigate ways to incorporate sustainable practices into the design, implementation, and evaluation of mobility programmes.

- Community impact of learning mobility, with the aim of understanding the economic benefits, cultural exchange, and social interactions between participants and local residents; grasping potential challenges or negative consequences of learning mobility on local communities; and exploring strategies to promote positive interactions and community engagement.
- Quality assurance and effectiveness of learning mobility, by examining outcomes, skills development and intercultural competencies acquired by participants during their mobility experiences and support structures, mentoring and evaluation mechanisms in place to enhance the overall quality of learning mobility initiatives.
- Equity, inclusion and access to learning mobility, including the barriers that prevent certain groups of young people from participating in learning mobility programmes, such as their socio-economic status, gender, ethnicity, disability, etc. Understanding these barriers can help inform policy and programme design to promote inclusivity and equal opportunities in learning mobility.
- Online/virtual/hybrid learning mobility: as technology advances, online and virtual learning mobility programmes might gain popularity. At the moment, however, there is very limited (and, in some contexts, non-existent) research exploring the effectiveness of virtual mobility experiences, their potential to foster intercultural understanding and the extent to which they can complement or even substitute traditional physical mobility.

### **Youth work**

Youth work is an essential component in understanding the needs, challenges, and aspirations of young people and evaluating the impact of various policies and interventions. The following topics have been identified as youth work-related areas of high interest for youth research.

- **Engagement with young people in “new normal” conditions**

It is important to explore how youth work can empower young people and create a conducive environment for them to express their views, concerns and experiences in a hybridised physical–digital space, and what type of new skills and attitudes are required for this.

- **Inclusive representation**

Research can explore how can youth work reach out to diverse groups of young people, including those from marginalised or disadvantaged backgrounds.

- **Needs assessment and programme development**

The insights gained from youth work regarding the needs and challenges faced by young people in different communities can inform the development and improvement of youth-related policies, programmes and services.

- **Capacity building and training**

These should be targeted to youth workers and civil society organisations, especially in situations of humanitarian crises, emergencies, rural/peripheral zones and in relation to technological developments.

- **Cultural and contextual understanding**

Research and youth work can jointly examine how youth work can be more culturally sensitive and contextually relevant, especially when working with young people from different backgrounds or suffering the trauma of conflict.

- **Recognition, validation, regulation, accreditation**

While some countries have made important steps, for some others, there is a long road ahead for youth work recognition. Sharing examples and experiences and establishing networks can contribute to positive developments and inform relevant research and policies.

## **Mapping future priorities: towards the 2024-25 work plan**

The consultative process for preparing the Youth Partnership work plan for 2024-25<sup>1</sup> began with initial discussions held at the meeting of the joint bureaux of the statutory bodies in January 2023, at the meeting of the steering group on the implementation of the European Youth Work Agenda on 25-26 January and during the consultation with the Joint Council on Youth meeting in March 2023. The contribution of the EKCYP-PEYR members was perceived as an indispensable part of this consultation process. Consultation with the networks (including the discussions mentioned above) focused on research topics and priorities. The consultative process was finalised following the 21 June 2023 consultative meeting of representatives from the European youth sector.

## **Research projects and initiatives: thematic priorities**

### **What are the topics where (more) research is needed to support youth policy and practice development?**

- “Real” social inclusion, in terms of gender(s), age, education/educational background, ethnicity/race/class/family, not being in education, employment or training, (un)employment status, migration, delinquency, etc.
- Intergenerational justice, in terms of housing, healthcare, social support, demographics, etc.
- Climate change and climate justice: climate-related youth activism, sustainability, eco- anxiety, etc.
- Learning mobility: mapping of different mobility programmes (not limiting ourselves to Erasmus+), sustainable practices.
- Implications of the war in Ukraine: European response to the war in Ukraine, treatment of Ukrainian refugees by European Union countries/societies, integration of young Ukrainian refugees in different European countries, favouritism, mental health, coping with trauma, returnees, etc.
- Leisure activities: organised leisure activities, social media, re-conquering of public spaces by young people, changes in lifestyle and mentality (preferably a long-term survey).
- Transition to adulthood, aspirations and employment: challenges and threats to transition, understanding the basics of transition (from definitions to country-specific practices), young refugees, housing, etc.
- Youth work: impact assessment, value, recognition, etc.
- Youth (political) participation: reasons for participation (emotional, personal, family-related, community-related etc.), social media, etc.

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<sup>1</sup> For more details on the consultative process, see the concept note “Consultative process for the preparation of the Youth Partnership’s workplan 2024-25”.



- Artificial intelligence in education, youth research, youth work, young people's lives.
- Mental health: a rather horizontal research issue, applicable to different themes suggested, from climate change to the war in Ukraine.
- Social media impact on young people, in terms of interaction, self-concept, social life, promotion of gender-related clichés, problematic self-exposition; disinformation and polarisation in society; harassment and private-data exploitation.
- Advocacy and knowledge translation, exploring:
  - How to translate research findings into policy recommendations?
  - How to conduct research in a policy-friendly language?
  - How to disseminate research-based recommendations at a national level?

### **What initiatives can the Youth Partnership take to support youth work?**

- Exercise political pressure for the recognition of youth work in countries where this is not already a reality.
- Support the development of youth work-related curriculums in academia.
- Produce a study featuring a mapping of occupational standards in different countries.
- Organise networking activities such as symposiums, forums and seminars, where experts in the field can come together, exchange good practices and explore how they can support each other's work in the field.

### **Specific needs in the two regions (Eastern and South-East Europe):**

The Youth Partnership has been encouraged by groups to:

- conduct comparative studies with geographical regions that are usually beyond the Youth Partnership's reach (Mediterranean countries, Nordic countries, the Global South, etc.);
- update or even create (if non-existent) YouthWiki chapters on countries in South-East Europe;
- investigate what support systems are needed from or can be delivered by the Youth Partnership regarding the consolidation of youth policy and youth work in the region;
- encourage peer learning in the regions (for instance, through networking activities), especially in thematic areas connected with training of experts and professionalisation of youth work;
- produce research on the following topics:
  - conceptualisation of youth work in South-East Europe;
  - how youth participation is perceived and understood by young people;
  - measuring the impact of targeted v. general youth work;
  - youth migration and brain drain.



## Conclusions and recommendations

### Development, adoption or revision of definitions

Participants envision the Youth Partnership undertaking a leading and dynamic role in revisiting, revising and reconceptualising terms and definitions, with the purpose of establishing an updated, research-informed, jointly accepted use of basic terms that are commonly used in publications, but which often carry different etymological connotations.

For instance, participants argued that terms that were considered culturally sensitive and politically correct a decade ago, might now be perceived as “obsolete”, “one-sided”, “limited”, “derogatory” or simply, “vague”. To name a few examples, categorisations such as “marginalised youth”, “underprivileged young people”, “disadvantaged neighbourhood”, etc., offer a lot of room for different interpretations, but also might be used authoritatively to describe people, contexts and situations, without having in mind a concrete, jointly agreed and theoretically informed reference. Working groups suggested adopting (to the extent possible) a common theoretical framework on fundamental terms and then differentiating the scope of research in terms of epistemological approach (sociological, anthropological, human-rights oriented, etc.).

This would potentially imply revisiting (or even revising) some established terms to match current needs and developments, or enhancing current definitions, either by adding elements that would make them more inclusive/holistic or adapting them to current needs and trends. For example, what do we mean by the “new normal”? What are the limits and implications of the so-called “phygital” presence (a newly invented term implying a hybrid mode of working or participating in an activity, combining balanced hours of ‘physical’ and ‘digital’ attendance)? Participants suggested even revisiting basic terms, considered as essential in youth policy and youth research, to ensure a common understanding. Commonly used words in youth research and youth policy documents, such as “autonomy” or “transition”, remain quite fluid or even elusive. The Youth Partnership could take the initiative of conceptualising these terms, so that there is a commonly agreed understanding.

### Youth Partnership publication digest

The groups suggested receiving a “publication digest/newsletter” at fixed points in time, so that they know what has been produced.

### PEYR/EKCYP involvement

The groups suggested that they have a greater say in:

1. the drafting of the annual agenda of research-related priorities and that they be given more freedom to suggest topics that might emerge due to unexpected socio-political changes that are not foreseen in the initial agenda;
2. the agenda of the annual meetings (from venue to topics addressed).

### **Networking and connections**

The groups strongly voiced their desire to be offered more networking opportunities (physical meetings/study visits) and space to connect through their roles as PEYR/EKCYP members (physical presence). This recommendation is strongly connected with a suggestion voiced in the previous annual meeting, where participants even envisioned the partnership as a large think-tank.

## Networking and exchange – research, policy, practice

The annual meeting concluded with the networking and sharing of practices from the host country, Portugal, including researchers, the Portuguese Institute of Sport and Youth, youth associations and from other actors, the European Youth Forum and the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe.

- [Presentation](#) of the [Lisbon Youth Centre](#) by Eduarda Marques, Director of the Lisbon Youth Centre, and Fernanda Oliveira Brito, Lisbon Youth Centre Co-ordinator.
- The European Youth Forum's [Youth Progress Index](#), presented by Fabiana Maraffa.
- Presentation of a study: "Portrait of young people and Portuguese youth associations" by Marco Santos, President of the National Federation of Youth Associations.
- The Portuguese National Youth Council, presented by by Débora Gonçalves.
- Action and Integration for Global Development by President Susana Damasceno and Francisca Santos.
- [DYPALL Network](#) (Developing Youth Participation At Local Level), presented by Antea Pamukovic.
- Tirana European Youth Capital 2022, presented by Jehona Roka (EKCYF).
- North-South Centre of the Council of Europe, presented by Veronika Scherk-Arsenio.

## **Annex 1: agenda**

### **27 April 2023**

09:30- 10:00	Welcome and opening of the meeting
10:00-11:00	Reconnecting – getting to know each other
11:00-11:30	Coffee break
11:30- 13:00	National realities and youth sector priorities
13:00-14:30	Lunch break
14:30- 15:00	Overview of the Youth Partnership's work and achievements
15:00-16:00	Research projects and initiatives – thematic priorities
16:00- 16:30	Coffee break
16:30- 17:30	Mapping the future priorities – towards the 2024-25 work plan
17:30-18:00	PEYR renewal – updates
18:00	Reception

### **28 April 2023**

09:30-11:00	Presentation of the Lisbon Youth Centre European Youth Forum – Youth Progress Index
11:00-11:30	Coffee break
11:30-12:30	Networking and exchange – research, policy, practice
12:30	Closing of the meeting

## Annex 2: participants

### PEYR members

Name	Organisation
Cristina Bacalso	
Ondřej Barta	Freelance youth researcher
Ivana Boskovic	
Igor Ciurea	Information and Resource Centre PRO BONO
Tomaž Deželan	University of Ljubljana
Aleksandra Djurovic	
Mary Drosopoulos	Eurobalkan Youth Forum and PEYR
Dora Giannaki	Centre for Political Research, Panteion University, Athens, Greece
Liudmyla Kindrat	
Sofia Laine	Finnish Youth Research Society
Irina Lonean	Centre for Sustainable Community
Lutjona Lula	ESN Albania; PEYR member
Tamar Makharadze	Ivane Javakishvili Tbilisi State University, Associate Professor
Marie-Claire McAleer	
Dan Moxon	People Dialogue and Change
Mehmet Gökay Ozerim	Yasar University
Marzena Ples	
Ilona-Evelyn Rannala	Tallinn University/Estonian Association of Youth Workers
Mette Ranta	Ministry of Justice, Finland/University of Helsinki
Adina Marina Serban	CSCD
Frank Tillmann	German Youth Institute
Frederike van de Poll	German Youth Institute
Sergio Xavier	Centre for Social Studies, University of Coimbra

### PEYR Advisory Group

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
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### Other participants

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