

Youth Partnership

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



EU-COUNCIL OF EUROPE YOUTH PARTNERSHIP 2024-2025 WORKPLAN

Agreed by the Partnership Management Board on 21 November 2023

21/11/2023

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2024-2025, the Partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the field of youth (ff. 'the Youth Partnership') will continue fostering synergies between the European Commission and the Council of Europe youth sectors on specific issues of common interest to help achieving greater European unity.

The Youth Partnership provides a unique and evolving platform of cooperation benefitting youth work, youth policy and youth research. It gathers and produces knowledge at the service of European youth policies and practice, and helps develop and test new approaches, considering traditional themes and innovative trends.

The Youth Partnership provides added value to the partner institutions to their respective work; for the European Commission – on implementing the aims of the EU Youth Strategy, and the legacy of the European Year of Youth; for the Council of Europe – on the four priorities of its Youth Strategy 2030, and the implementation of the Reykjavik Declaration and Principles of Democracy of the 4th Summit of the Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe.

In 2024-2025, priority is given to youth policy and youth work, while making further efforts in terms of communication, dissemination and knowledge transfer. The Youth Partnership will also continue providing added value to the partner institutions' initiatives planned for 2024-2025 with research and expertise, including through its Pool of European Youth Researchers (PEYR), on an as needed basis, as agreed upon the partner institutions and in line with the human and financial resources available. It will also offer its support to the European Union and Council of Europe's presidencies, through knowledge gathering and disseminating resources.

YOUTH POLICY

In September 2024, the Youth Partnership will organise a Symposium on young people, climate crisis and sustainability to offer to the European youth sector an opportunity to discuss how young people are engaging with these issues, what are the main emerging topics and challenges, and how youth research, youth policy and youth work can adapt and respond to the changing context. About 100-120 participants – policy makers, practitioners, researchers, youth activists, young people and stakeholders from other sectors – are expected to attend.

Beyond climate crisis and sustainability, embedding the youth perspective in policy making / youth mainstreaming also got more focus on the youth policy agenda of both the European Commission and the Council of Europe, with a need to integrate them in the work of the organisations and to provide support to their implementation in member states. In that context, the Youth Partnership will develop a twofold approach to support them putting in place or better implementing a youth perspective/youth mainstreaming processes. Studies will be carried out and guidance developed for national and local level actors.

The Youth Partnership will also work on participatory youth policy making following recent publications, and promote existing resources in national and local initiatives among policy makers, trainers, educators and implementers.

Highlights

- Symposium on young people, climate crisis and sustainability.
- Seminar on participatory youth policy making, tools and resources for adopting European standards and support measures in national and local youth policy, combined with the evaluation and closing meeting of the project Shaping youth policy in practice.
- Study exploring in depth the existing initiatives and projects at European level, making a review of the recommendations of international organisations, and providing recommendations to the partner institutions
- Study exploring in depth the existing initiatives and projects at national level and providing recommendations to the sector.
- Seminar presenting and discussing the findings of the studies.
- Youth Knowledge Book on youth perspective in policy making / youth mainstreaming.
- Concrete resource to support the sector in implementing youth mainstreaming / bringing a youth perspective, based on the findings of the studies and the needs of the sector.
- MOOC on Youth Policy Essentials, updated, with a new module on local youth policy and a masterclass organised per year.

YOUTH WORK

In 2024-2025, the Youth Partnership will continue strengthening its role and activities on youth work development, building on the European Youth Work Agenda and following four main directions:

- **Supporting the 4th European Youth Work Convention:** the Youth Partnership will contribute to the preparation and running of the 4th European Youth Work Convention to be hosted by Malta in May 2025, with research, knowledge gathering, expertise, organising workshops and ensuring a good representation of countries from Erasmus+ partner countries in Eastern and Southeast Europe.
- **Fostering the dialogue within the youth work community of practice (at European level and in Eastern and Southeast Europe):** with the co-ordination of an EU-Council of Europe Networking Group on the European Youth Work Agenda, offering a room for regular exchange of information between the European Commission and the Council of Europe, and those who play a role in youth work development at European level. The EU-Council of Europe Networking Group will also be used as a support to the preparation of the 4th European Youth Work Convention.
The Youth Partnership will also maintain the continuity of the dialogue with the youth work community of practice in Eastern and Southeast Europe, with the organisation of a regional seminar, tailored to the needs of the two regions and building on the lessons learned from the previous activities, studies, research and publications.
- **Building capacities of the youth work community of practice:** in 2024-2025, the Youth Partnership will put more efforts on building capacities of the youth work community of practice. New tools and resources on advocating for youth work development and on developing youth work strategies will be produced and disseminated. Thematic training kits (T-kits) will also be finalised and promoted within the youth work community of practice on funding and financial management, project management and conflict transformation. New

resources will be developed on organisational management and on areas of major concerns for the youth work sector.

- **Researching to support youth work development:** with the follow-up of two studies carried out by the Youth Partnership in 2022-2023 on European youth work ecosystems and on European models of recognition of youth worker skills and competences, taking into account the results of the review of the Council of Europe's recommendation on youth work. The latest research, studies and publications on youth work development will continue to be promoted and disseminated. A research will be carried out on quality standards in youth work.

Highlights

- Biannual meetings of the EU-Council of Europe Networking Group on the European Youth Work Agenda.
- Seminar on youth work development in Eastern and Southeast Europe.
- Advocacy tools for youth work development and communication about the European Youth Work Agenda.
- Youth Work Strategy Manual.
- T-kit 3 (revised) on project management.
- T-kit 9 (revised) on funding and financial management.
- T-kit 12 (revised) youth transforming conflicts.
- Dissemination event on project and financial management.
- Editorial work on T-kit 1 on organisational management (revision).
- Editorial work on a new T-kit on youth work in digital era or youth work and well-being of young people.
- Research on indicators for indicators on quality standards for youth work.
- Follow-up to the mapping study on European youth work ecosystems and the study of models of recognition of youth workers skills and competences, including the outcomes of the review of the Council of Europe's recommendation on youth work.
- MOOC on Youth Work Essentials, updated, with short online courses on project and financial management, and one masterclasses organised per year.
- Support to the 4th European Youth Work Convention, Malta, May 2025.
- Series of workshops at the 4th European Youth Work Convention to promote and disseminate the latest publications and resources produced by the Youth Partnership.

YOUTH RESEARCH

As part of its mandate, the Youth Partnership contributes to a better understanding of the current and upcoming challenges and trends in young people's lives, and their implication and relevance for youth policy and youth work. In 2024-2025, three research projects will be carried out based on quantitative and qualitative data collection processes and building on previous studies and achievements.

- **Research on young people's mental health and well-being**, aimed at analysing available support systems at different levels, providing guidance for policy and practice and further exploring the different triggers that aggravate young people's mental health and well-being (socio-economic, climate, conflict, digitalisation, working conditions, etc.).
- **Research on young people engaging with democracy and civic space**, with two new angles: the first one focusing on the trends in young people's participation, including their motivation

and ideological preferences, and the current tendencies with regard to the shrinking civic space; and the second one, following the results of the European elections 2024, on young people's behaviour and preferences, new trends in standing in elections as candidates, and impact of lowering the voting age to 16 or 17 in some EU countries.

- **Research on rural youth**, exploring how young people living in rural areas access opportunities (non-formal learning, active citizenship and participation at local, regional, national and European levels), analysing promising practices, existing tools and youth friendly frameworks, and providing guidance for policy makers on how to expand opportunities for young people in rural areas.

Highlights

- Study on young people's mental health and well-being.
- Insights publication on young people's mental health and well-being and Youth Knowledge Book (tbc).
- Seminar with youth policy makers, youth workers, researchers and stakeholders from other sectors, presenting and discussing the results of the study.
- Practical guidance for youth workers and/or policy makers, based on the results of the study and seminar and the needs of the sector.
- Study on young people's participation, motivation and changing ideological preferences, and on the shrinking of civic space.
- Research on young people's voting behaviour, including the impact of lowering the voting age to 16 or 17 and the new trends in standing for elections as candidates.
- Dissemination event related to the research on young people engaging with democracy and civic space.
- Coyote youth work magazine dedicated to young people's political participation and voting.
- Study on rural youth.
- Dissemination event related to the study on rural youth.
- MOOC on Youth Research Essentials, run in a self-directed format and with one masterclass organised per year.

YOUTH PARTNERSHIP NETWORKS AND EXPERTS – CO-ORDINATION AND SUPPORT

The Youth Partnership will be supported, throughout the duration of the programme, by its two networks: the EKCYP (European Knowledge Centre for Youth Policy) correspondents and the Pool of European Youth Researchers (PEYR) with its Advisory Group. They will play an active role in the design implementation, dissemination and evaluation of the Youth Partnership's activities (research, studies, seminars, Symposium, MOOCs, etc.).

The two networks will be also involved in a process of improving the quality of the publications, studies and papers produced by the Youth Partnership.