

Youth Partnership

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



EU-Council of Europe Youth Partnership 2022-23 work plan

Summary

As in the previous years, the 2022-2023 overall goal of the Youth Partnership is to foster synergies between the priorities and activities of the two partner institutions that are within their shared interest: youth policy, youth research and youth work.

In 2022, the Youth Partnership will also contribute to the main events of both partner institutions: the European Year of Youth of the European Union, the Council of Europe's campaign on "Youth for Democracy – Democracy for Youth" and 50th anniversary of the Council of Europe's Youth Sector.

The work plan of the Youth Partnership is biennial, covering 2022 and 2023, and the role of the Youth Partnership in the implementation of the European Youth Work Agenda (EYWA) and the Bonn Process connected to it is strengthened, following an increase of funding from the European Union. Activities with a specific geographic coverage in Eastern Europe and South Caucasus, and in Southeast Europe will support the connection of the youth sector in those regions to the work of the Youth Partnership and the two partner institutions.

This summary briefly presents the 18 activities of the work plan 2022-23, agreed at PMB of 8 December 2021, arranged in 5 chapters, along with a couple of considerations on communication and publications.

FLAGSHIP EVENTS

In 2022, a **symposium on young people's transitions** will be held to address and explore the impact of Covid-19 and other crises on youth transitions to autonomy and to examine and reflect on the policy measures needed to support young people. This symposium will be a key event of the European Year of Youth.

In 2023, the Youth Partnership will organise a **European community of practice meeting on the implementation of the EYWA**, at mid-point between the 3rd European Youth Work Convention held in 2020 and the next one planned for 2025, to pave the way to a permanent dialogue at European level between all those involved in the implementation of this common strategic framework. The results of the research/study on models of recognition of youth workers skills and competences (see below) will be presented.

RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE GATHERING

The **European Knowledge Centre on Youth Policy (EKCYC)** will be enriched with the publication and update of country sheets and new analytical documents on the reality of young people, youth work and youth policy, in line with the Youth Partnership's research programme. New user-friendly "Insights" publications will be also published based on the PEYR research, EKCYC and EU Youth Wiki information.

The **Pool of European Youth Researchers (PEYR)** will continue to contribute to the development of knowledge-based youth policy and practice and to support the implementation of the strategies of both partner institutions, and their major events, on an as-needed basis. Their contribution could cover for instance: EU Youth dialogue, EU Youth strategy mid-term revision, Conference on the Future of Europe, European Year of Youth, 50th anniversary of the Council of Europe's Youth sector, Council of Europe's campaign on revitalising youth democracy, evaluation of the implementation of recommendations, statutory bodies' work, as well as European Union and Council of Europe Presidencies.

In 2022-23, research and studies will be carried out, involving both EKCYC correspondents and PEYR members in their development, running and promotion. They will explore the following areas:

- **Impact and learning from Covid-19 for the youth sector.** Complementary analytical papers will be published in the Knowledge Hub on areas identified as knowledge gaps, such as: youth participation, shrinking space for civil society, social inclusion, digitalisation and digital youth work, mental health and well-being. Further reflection on policy and practice implication will be carried out, assessing the learning from this period for the youth sector and looking for relevant recovery initiatives. The Youth Knowledge Book on youth transitions in pandemic times will be published and disseminated, and the studies on impact of Covid-19 in Eastern Europe and Southeast Europe, will be widely promoted.
- **Young people's participation and social inclusion.** A research will be carried out, aiming at better understanding young people's democratic participation in connection to social inclusion, gender and intersectionality and young people's patterns of participation and activism connected to digitalisation. The findings of the studies on youth political participation, consequences of Covid-19 pandemic on democratic youth participation, new forms of youth civic engagements and on critical thinking in citizenship education – run in 2021 – will be presented and promoted in the context of the European Year of Youth and Council of Europe's Youth Campaign. The Youth Knowledge Book on youth political participation will be finalised and published.
- **Digitalisation, artificial intelligence (AI) and young people.** A study will explore the potential and limits of digitalisation and artificial intelligence, building on Youth Partnership's previous research in this area, as well as their implication for individual, society and labour market, in the light of the Covid-19 pandemic. Inspiring examples of policy measures, tools for practitioners and suggestions for further research will be also shared.

The **Perspective on Youth** series will continue to stimulate critical and anticipative discussions on youth issues that need to be considered by youth policies in Europe. Reflection papers, briefings, statements and interviews, webinars, podcasts and discussions are expected on the long-term impact of Covid-19 on various areas of young people's lives, AI, digitalisation and young people, gender,

climate change, youth precariousness, etc. A research seminar will be arranged in 2022 on one of the priority topics, followed by the editorial work on a **new Youth Knowledge Book**.

YOUTH POLICY

In 2022-23, **the e-library on policy evaluation** will be further developed, to equip those involved in youth policy design and implementation with tools to evaluate it, in order to enhance youth policy's relevance, effectiveness and impact. The **new Youth Policy manual from a European perspective "About time!"** will be further promoted throughout the programme period, and the **training kit (T-kit) on participatory youth policy** will be finalised and widely disseminated.

The 5th edition of **"Shaping youth policy"** will increase capacities of five national delegations to strengthen youth policy on the basis of know-how and principles promoted by the Youth Partnership and its partner institutions and foster mutual learning and co-operation among the actors in the youth field.

YOUTH WORK

In 2022-23, the Youth Partnership will step up its activities on youth work and strengthen its role in the implementation of the **European Youth Work Agenda**, following three main directions:

- Facilitating the dialogue within the youth work community of practice
- Supporting better recognition of youth work
- Supporting Council of Europe and European Union initiatives on youth work

The Youth Partnership's work will be guided by a steering group on the implementation of the EYWA bringing together representatives from both European Union and Council of Europe side. Consultations and meeting of the youth work community of practice, mapping studies of youth work ecosystems, research on models of recognition of youth workers skills and competences, including recommendations and scenarios for mutual recognition, and further development and promotion of the visible value library of resources on recognition of youth work are expected during the programme period. Further research and analytical work will be also carried out to support the implementation of the EYWA. For instance, a pool of experts on youth work development will be set up to respond concretely to national and local needs and carry out studies on youth work development at national level, on an as-needed basis.

The Youth Partnership will also support COE and EU initiatives, in particular the evaluation process of the Council of Europe's Recommendation CM/REC(2017)4 on youth work and will ensure connections with the European Commission's sub-group on youth work and the Council of Europe's working group on the EYWA.

Regarding publications, the Thinking kit for developing practice architectures for youth work and the **T-kit on funding and financial management** will be finalised and promoted. In 2022, the Youth Partnership will launch the editorial work on a **Youth Knowledge Book on youth work strategies** and the update of the **T-kit on project management**. A **new T-kit** will be developed in 2023 on a topic to be determined. **Coyote magazine** will continue to present new youth policy developments and trends in youth work primarily for the youth work community of practice. Each year, one issue will be related to the European youth policies and the other one will address a specific theme. For 2022, the first issue will focus on sustainability and the second one on both the European Year of Youth and 50th anniversary of the Council of Europe's Youth Sector.

Activities with regional focus in Eastern and Southeast Europe will be also carried out, ensuring a follow-up of the 3rd European Youth Work Convention.

The Youth Partnership will continue, in 2022-23, to co-ordinate the **European Platform on Learning Mobility**, further developing the knowledge and understanding of sustainability in the context of learning mobility, exploring the value and cost of learning mobility activities, and updating the handbook on quality in learning mobility. The promotion of the findings of the research on online, blended and hybrid models of mobility and of community impact indicators is also planned.

COMMUNICATING KNOWLEDGE AND BUILDING CAPACITIES

The Youth Partnership will keep on developing and updating Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) to build capacities of the sector on youth work, youth research and youth policy.

The **MOOC on youth work essentials**, whose second edition was run in 2021, will be updated based on youth sector development and new audio and video materials added. It will raise awareness and provide an overview of the basics of youth work and the European youth work as well as information on how youth work is supported. In 2022, the MOOC on youth work essentials will be also transferred into a self-directed learning experience to allow for increased flexibility and availability of the content for the participants.

A 4th edition of the **MOOC on youth policy essentials** will be ran as a self-directed experience, aiming at increasing the understanding and capacity of the youth policy actors to engage with youth policy, network and be associated to the work of the two partner institutions.

A **MOOC on youth research essentials** will be develop and run in 2023, providing an overview of the basics of youth research and on how youth research is supported, sharing good practice examples in Europe and beyond and engaging youth workers, policy makers, youth researchers, trainers, etc. in a dialogue on youth research.

COMMUNICATION, PUBLICATIONS, WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA

Following an audit conducted in 2021, the Youth Partnership will launch important work to improve the content, structure and functionalities of its website.

Efforts will also continue to present and disseminate the outcomes of the Youth Partnership's work to wide and specialised audiences, though publications, papers, audio, video and other digital multimedia sources. A particular attention will be paid to translating the research findings into practical, innovative and operational materials and approaches, easy to understand and to use for policy and practice and to make them widely accessible.

A communication strategy, including the development of communication materials, a strategy for social media's presence and the revamp of the website is also expected.