

Partnership agreement

**between the European Youth Information and
Counselling Agency (ERYICA)**

and the Council of Europe

The European Youth Information and Counselling Agency (hereinafter referred to as "ERYICA"),
represented by its President, Ms Mäité Benavides Castro, and

the Council of Europe,
represented by Mr Daniel Tarschys, its Secretary General,

Having regard to Recommendation N° R (90) 7 of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe concerning information and counselling for young people in Europe and the European Union Council Resolution of 31 March 1995 on co-operation in the field of youth information and studies concerning youth;

Considering the wishes of the European Ministers responsible for Youth, who at their 6 conference (Vienna, April 1993) recommended the promotion of the development of information services at European level, as well as national, regional and local networks, with the participation of young people and youth organisations and, to that end, the improvement of co-operation with ERYICA and its member organisations;

Considering the conclusions of the European Steering Committee for Intergovernmental Co-operation in the Youth Field (CDEJ) working group on youth information and counselling which recommended the organisation of youth information training courses either at the European Youth Centres for persons coming from different countries or in a specific country requesting such assistance, as well as other measures such as the development of youth information services, their linking-up into networks and the assessment of young people's needs on information;

Considering the expectations of young people and national and international youth organisations, with a view to taking account of their information needs;

Wishing to:

- promote and develop European co-operation in the field of youth information and counselling;
- promote the equality of access to information which young people require;

- facilitate and organise training for the persons involved in youth information and counselling to ensure a high standard of service;
- meet the demands in this field of all the member States of the Council of Europe and the Contracting Parties to the European Cultural Convention, particularly the countries of central and eastern Europe;

decide to establish a partnership, based upon the following agreement:

Article 1

The purpose of the partnership agreement is to promote and develop European co-operation in youth information and counselling, in particular by organising training activities for persons involved in youth information and counselling.

Article 2

All the Contracting Parties to the European Cultural Convention, may avail themselves of all the activities provided for in Articles 1 and 3. Training activities provided for in Articles 1 and 3 may be organised on the territory of each Contracting Party to the European Cultural Convention which makes such a request.

Article 3

Training activities are defined in Appendix I.

The persons involved in youth information and counselling are defined in Appendix II.

Article 4

In order to achieve the objectives set out in Article 1, the signatories of the present agreement shall establish a Joint Co-ordinating Committee whose composition and powers are set out in Articles 5 and 6 respectively.

Article 5

The Joint Co-ordinating Committee shall be composed of three representatives of the CDEJ and three representatives of ERYICA. A representative of the Governing Board and a representative of the Advisory Committee of the European Youth Centres and the European Youth Foundation shall take part as members without voting rights.

In case of admission of a new partner, the signatories of the agreement will decide on the number of seats to be allocated to the partner at the Joint Co-ordinating Committee.

The Joint Co-ordinating Committee takes its decisions by consensus, or failing that by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast.

Article 6

The Joint Co-ordinating Committee shall be responsible for:

- drawing up the annual programme and timetable of training and other activities;
- preparing the annual budget of the programme of activities;
- supervising the implementation of the programme and assessing it at least once a year.

Article 7

The programme's budget shall comprise:

- contributions from the Council of Europe's ordinary budget and, where appropriate:
 - facilities and staff provided by the European Youth Centres, subject to the Governing Board's approval;
 - grants from the European Youth Foundation, subject to the Governing Board's approval;
 - grants from the Demosthenes programme;
- individual contributions from States in the case of projects provided for in Appendix III, item 2, or on a voluntary basis;
- contributions from ERYICA, particularly by providing training specialists to assist with training activities under the conditions laid down in Appendix III.

Other sources of funding may be used with the agreement of the Joint Co-ordinating Committee.

Article 8

The financial arrangements are set out in Appendix III.

Article 9

The signatories delegate the authority to manage this agreement to the Director of Youth of the Council of Europe and the Secretary General of ERYICA respectively.

Article 10

The agreement is concluded for an initial period of two years, with tacit annual renewal unless one or other parties terminate it after three months' notice.

Article 11

This agreement is open to any organisation having the same aims as the signatories to the present agreement and situated in a member State of the Council of Europe and/or party to the European Cultural Convention of the Council of Europe.

Each request to adhere to this agreement must be submitted for unanimous approval of the signatories.

Article 12

In the absence of a friendly settlement between the parties, any dispute between the Council of Europe and ERYICA concerning the application of the present agreement shall be submitted to arbitration in accordance with the arbitration method set out in Rule N° 481 of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, approved by the Committee of Ministers.

Signed in two copies, in Strasbourg, on 2 April 1997

For the Council of Europe,

For the European Youth Information
and Counselling Agency (ERYICA)

The Secretary General

The President

Appendix I

Training activities include in particular:

1. Organising training courses, either in the European Youth Centres for persons from various countries or in a state of a Contracting Party to the European Cultural Convention;
2. Preparing and adapting training manuals on the personalised reception of young people, documentation techniques and the management of information;
3. Preparing guidelines about the establishment, functioning and management of youth information services;
4. Defining and setting-up a data base on specialists in various aspects of youth information and counselling, who can be called on by the countries concerned to provide technical assistance or undertake feasibility studies;
5. Awarding grants to facilitate study visits, staff exchanges and courses, particularly for persons working in the youth information field in countries that are setting-up or developing youth information services.

Appendix II

Persons involved in youth information and counselling are defined as:

1. persons working on a paid or voluntary basis in youth information and counselling, in particular in public or private centres or services;
2. those responsible for setting-up youth information and counselling services;
3. established or newly recruited staff of existing youth information centres or services.

Appendix III

In accordance with Article 7, the financial arrangements are as follows:

1. activities open to all the Contracting Parties to the European Cultural Convention shall receive financing from the Council of Europe and ERYICA unless other funding or partial funding is secured;
2. for an activity involving one State or a limited number of States the costs of the activity shall be met by the State(s) concerned unless other funding or partial funding is secured;
3. training specialists nominated by ERYICA shall be reimbursed for their actual expenses according to the rules in force in the Council of Europe for the reimbursement of the travelling expenses of the governmental experts, and shall not receive a fee from the Council of Europe.