



European Platform on Learning Mobility in the Youth Field

Mission Statement

Introduction

The bodies involved in the European Platform on Learning Mobility in the Youth Field understand Europe as the region that includes the countries and actors represented in the Council of Europe and the European Union. The Platform is a space for exchange and cooperation of researchers, policy makers and practitioners within this region. By practitioners the platform means programme staff, trainers and consultants, youth workers and other multipliers in the youth field. The Platform focuses on non-formal learning with links to informal learning as well as to formal education.

The learning mobility in this framework aims to increase participation, active citizenship, intercultural learning and dialogue, individual competency development and employability of young people. The platform focuses on physical and organised learning mobility but does not forget the virtual mobility facilitating and supporting physical mobility experiences. The platform focuses on the learning mobility of 13 to 35-year old and of practitioners in the youth field. By youth field the platform means specific youth field culture types of youth work that characterize the field.

Background

The International Conference 'Framework, Quality, and Impact of Young Europeans' Learning Mobility' took place from 11 - 13 May 2011 at the European Youth Centre of the Council of Europe in Budapest. It was initiated and organised in cooperation between the Partnership between the Council of Europe and the European Commission in the field of youth, the National Agencies for YOUTH IN ACTION in Germany (JUGEND für Europa) and Hungary (Mobilitás) and a consortium of German institutions organising the long-standing 'Research-Practice Dialogue on International Youth Work'. A total of 85 participants from 27 countries were selected, consisting of policy makers, researchers, practitioners, institutions and organisations in the youth field, many of them presenting research or innovative youth projects.

The aim of this European conference was to take stock of current debates and research findings on educational youth mobility, exchange insights into quality factors and programme formats that will contribute to the desirable impact of learning





mobility schemes for young Europeans and serve to identify common interests, resources, and interfaces as a basis for collaboration projects, studies and further exchanges within a European network of experts.

An important result of the conference was the suggestion to implement a European Platform on Learning Mobility in the Youth Field. An important aim of such a platform is to facilitate a sustainable exchange between policy makers, researchers, practitioners, institutions and organisations involved in the youth field. A continuous co-operation of these four parties is seen as an added value for the further development, visibility and recognition of Learning Mobility in the youth field.¹

Aims and Objectives of the platform

The European Platform on Learning Mobility in the Youth Field aims to

1. Develop a network for cooperation for the exchange and cooperation of researchers, policy makers and practitioners in Europe;
2. Create and maintain a collective, multi-professional voice from the youth field with the common concern of learning mobility;
3. Create links between non-formal and informal learning as well as formal education.
4. Foster participation, active citizenship, intercultural learning and dialogue, individual competency development and employability of young people by learning mobility;
5. Foster the learning mobility of 13-35 year olds and learning mobility of practitioners in the youth field.

In order to achieve these aims and objectives the Platform organises projects such as conferences that bring together actors in this field, and develops publications. The Platform will follow-up and implement outcomes of conferences and link them to relevant policy discussions in Europe. The Platform is an open network, guided by a steering committee that meets on regular basis (at least once a year). The steering committee is composed of representatives of the members of the Platform.



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