

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



## **Seminar 'Euro-Arab youth policy co-operation in the Broader Euro-Mediterranean context'**

**1 - 3 June 2010, Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt**

### **CONCLUSIONS**

There is growing international attention for developing youth policies. While countries' motives to develop youth policies vary from one country to another, the motive for developing youth policies in the Arab countries is driven by the need to invest in the demographic "bulge", as young people represent nearly 65% of the population. Nearly nine of the Arab countries have developed youth policies, or are in the process of developing them. In the Council of Europe, attention to youth policy is not new, but it has re-emerged as a policy area of international co-operation since the first International Year of Youth in 1985, as a result of the understanding that actors in national youth policy strategies can learn from each other and contribute to more cohesive and inclusive societies; such societies are based on active citizenship and the participation of young people, and the need to respond to the challenges they meet in their path towards autonomy. The European Union (EU) started its youth policy co-operation in 2001, complementing the Youth Programme that had been supporting youth projects for many years. In 2009, the EU adopted the first Youth Report and the new Youth Strategy. This new Youth Strategy introduced the field of action 'Youth in the World', which aims at raising the awareness of young people to global issues, exchanging views with policy makers about these issues, and fostering mutual understanding among young people from all over the world.

In the light of this, the League of Arab States and the partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the field of youth have been paying particular attention to youth policy co-operation in the broader Euro-Mediterranean context since 2005. This co-operation has brought the main stakeholders of youth policies to a series of meetings over the last four years. As this process moves forward, challenges and opportunities have been identified, and demands have been made to further institutionalise the co-operation, and ensure it becomes increasingly relevant.

Within this context, the Seminar on Euro-Arab Youth Policy Co-operation in the broader Euro-Mediterranean context gathered diverse stakeholders of the youth policy development from 19 European and Arab countries. The seminar aimed to discuss the

essentials of youth policy, and how they are practised in the participants' respective countries. The participants of the seminar call for the consolidation of the co-operation between the League of Arab States and the partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the field of youth by:

- further supporting co-operation in the field of youth policy formulation, implementation, evaluation and development;
- activating dialogue and exchange between European and Arab decision makers (senior officials, ministers and parliamentarians) in relation to youth policies;
- supporting national and regional youth surveys and research in favour of creating indicators, evidence and the update of knowledge-based youth policies and local action plans;
- exchanging expertise in both regions in terms of study activities, joint research, and the translating and the publishing of significant reference documents, such as relevant policy documents, training manuals and tool kits;
- building the capacity of youth organizations, youth workers and other practitioners in the field of youth policy, including training to work as national resource people for the development of youth policies and youth work;
- providing technical assistance for countries in the process of developing youth policies within a multi-sectorial and inclusive approach;
- facilitating the mobility of young people within countries in both regions, and the organisation of youth dialogue and exchanges.