

Youth Partnership

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



EUROPEAN UNION



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Ministry of Social Policy and Youth
of Croatia

Youth Policy Cooperation in South East Europe: Symposium on the role of information and counselling in fostering young people's social inclusion and access to their rights

Call for Participants

Dates: 19-20 June 2013 (arrival 18th and departure 21st June)

Venue: Zagreb, Croatia

Deadline for applications: 10 April 2013 at 23:59 CET

Organisers: EU-CoE youth partnership, Ministry of Social Policy and Youth of Croatia, ERYICA, SALTO RC SEE

Costs: Selected participants will have their travel and accommodation costs covered by the organisers.

Apply now at:

http://youth-partnership-eu.coe.int/youth-partnership/seminars/seminar_23.html

Purpose of the symposium: Information and counselling represent an important empowering factor for young people in overcoming social exclusion and achieving access to their rights. The key lies in providing adequate, understandable and easily accessible information that young people can feel comfortable using. And while modern means of communication open up new and exciting possibilities in reaching out to an increasing number of young people, we must not neglect the importance of counselling and the role of professional youth work. Information without personal support and advice can be ineffective or, worse, wrongly interpreted. **This symposium will look at how the governments in partnership with other stakeholders can increase their outreach and extend their information and counselling support network to young people in the region.**

The seminar will analyse existing good practice in the field, involve current and prospective actors from different geographical areas by monitoring their existing competences, structures and providing input on the special role played by information and counselling as a cross-sectoral policy tool. It will elaborate on strategies to enhance the practice and expand

it to new needs of young people. It would foster the creation of partnerships and study good practice in starting national coordination structures in the field of youth information and counselling, taking into account past and current experiences.

A background paper on the role of youth information and counselling for social inclusion and access to youth rights will be produced for this event.

This event will represent a follow up to the earlier EU-CoE youth partnership / SALTO RC SEE activities in the region of South East Europe (Trogir, Croatia 2007; Belgrade, Serbia 2008; Brdo, Slovenia 2009, Tirana, Albania 2012), the country studies on youth policy in the region and the synthesis report on these studies/ The preparation for the event will also take into account the partner institutions' activities in this field, such as Enter2! And Roma action plan of the Council of Europe, as well as Eurodesk and European Youth Portal of the European Commission.

Objectives:

- Exchange of good practice on youth information and counselling for social inclusion and access to youth rights;
- Show how youth information and counselling could strengthen the social inclusion of young people, particularly of the most disadvantaged and with migrant backgrounds;
- Develop how youth information and counselling can combat social exclusion, precarious social conditions and marginalisation in particular by Improving access to employment, entrepreneurship, education and training;
- Clarify how the information and counselling needs of mobile young people from other countries could best be met;
- Identify how youth information and counselling can promote access to youth rights, as well as health and well-being of young people.

Participants:

- Policy makers involved in youth policy development in EU and CoE Member States with a focus on the SEE region;
- Practitioners and professional youth information workers;
- Youth researchers specialised on the topics of the seminar;
- Representatives of coordinating bodies of youth information national and regional structures;
- Youth workers interested to initiate youth information and counselling services in non-covered areas;
- Youth organisations and young people involved in youth information practice.

Participants would be selected with special attention to include particularly representatives from South-East Europe.