

## **Youth Partnership**

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



EUROPEAN UNION

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

# **Youth in 2020**

## **– the Future of Youth Policies Conference**

**1-3 October 2013**

European Youth Centre Budapest

### **Concept paper**

## **Background**

A good understanding and knowledge of youth is of paramount importance for policy making in the youth field in order to meet the needs and expectations of young people. Both, the European Union and the Council of Europe emphasise the importance of a knowledge-based approach to youth policy-making, as expressed in their relevant political documents and strategies. In the context of rapidly evolving realities and permanently fluctuating circumstances of younger generations in Europe and beyond, policies should be based on comprehensive knowledge and well-researched understanding of young people's situation. The *2012 EU Youth Report* is a good example of increasing the understanding of the situation of young people in the countries concerned (EU 27 and Croatia, Montenegro, Norway and Switzerland) and at the same time monitoring youth policy implementation and contributing to its future orientation.

Better knowledge is expected to also promote development of quality in the practice area. At the same time, the understanding of the situation of young people should also come from the practical knowledge brought by the youth work practitioners, youth NGOs and young people themselves.

The EU-CoE youth partnership supports this approach by building, gathering and disseminating knowledge on youth and by fostering dialogue between research, policy and practice in the youth field. In doing so, it contributes to enhancing quality of youth policies on all levels, from local to European, and to the emergence of a European area of youth knowledge. It also supports identification of new trends in the youth field and in areas which have an impact on young people's lives.

This conference has the vocation to contribute to furthering constructive reflection in the above mentioned directions, in the midst of the implementation of the institutional strategies, the EU Strategy for Youth "Investing and Empowering" and "Agenda 2020" describing the future of the Council of Europe youth policy.

## **Purpose**

The conference will discuss trends and challenges in the youth field in Europe and their possible implications for youth policy, youth work and research in Europe. The debates will focus on what the perspectives and scenarios for young people are until 2020, providing an opportunity for exchange of research findings and knowledge from youth policy and practice, discussing emerging phenomena and trends, mapping developments in selected areas of interest concerning young people such as learning, work, health, inclusion, citizenship and participation, identity / lifestyles, diversity / solidarity, mobility, housing & family, crime & justice. It will consider the political and social dimensions and implications of the existing and emerging societies of knowledge and information, risk society (inclusion – exclusion), global and sustainable societies (think global – act local), intercultural and civil societies. The ambition is to bring the reflections beyond the times of the current crisis, which is not only of an economic nature.

Taking stock of and creating synergies with the relevant initiatives of both partner institutions will be ensured, in particular:

- for the Council of Europe: ENTER!, Roma Youth Action Plan; No Hate Speech Movement campaign; implementation of the Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education (EDC/HRE) Charter, PACE Resolution and Recommendation "Young Europeans: an urgent educational challenge" (April 2013);
- for the EU: studies on the value of youth work and on youth participation in democratic life, Joint EU Youth Report; Council conclusions on the contribution of quality and outcomes based youth work to young people's development and well-being (May 2013); Council conclusions on maximizing the potential of youth policy in achieving the goals of the Europe 2020 Strategy (May 2013), conclusions of the Round Table on Youth Work and Employment, June 2013

## ***Aims***

The aims of the conference are:

- to deepen the knowledge of the current and expected future situation and needs of young people in Europe;
- to discuss what role may and should youth policy, research and youth work play, on different levels, in the current context of crisis and beyond, to enhance the perspectives for young people in Europe, in particular those on the margins of societies/communities

## ***Key questions to be answered:***

- What will be the main concerns of young people in Europe in 2020, what happens to this and the next generation and what are the challenges in the future?
- What happens to the European project in terms of socio-economic, technological, demographic and environmental challenges as well as democratic values (citizenship vs. economy, inclusion vs. exclusion, identity and well-being, learning and mobility, employment and health, diversity and solidarity ...) and what are (alternative) scenarios, existing and future ones?
- Which knowledge can research and practice provide, what should policy makers be aware of, which new and interesting practices exist already and which role does youth work play in the future?

In addressing these questions the following horizontal aspects will be considered: globalisation, human rights, minority groups' situation and rights, youth participation and youth rights, role and limitations of youth policy and youth work.

## ***Expected outcomes and results***

- Knowledge building and provision (scientific and experiential)
- Facts and figures, info-graphics, statistics, qualitative information and interpretation
- Identification of challenges ahead of young people, youth work, policy, research
- Identification of new and interesting practices in these areas
- Documentation of inputs: opening speeches, fact sheets, conclusions

## ***Participants***

155 participants from research, practice, policy from all over Europe and beyond, in particular from the regions of South-East Europe, Eastern Europe and South Caucasus, and South Mediterranean region will participate in the event.

Majority of participants will be youth experts and young people, but a certain number will come from beyond/outside of the youth field: employment, education, health etc.

## ***Methodology***

The intention of the organisers is to provide space for debate on the issues key for youth policy in Europe in the current situation and the years to come, involving on an equal footing the relevant actors in the European youth field regardless of their background and profile. Participants will be invited to share their knowledge and reflections, to debate the issues they care for most and contributing with their ideas, expertise and connections to proposing ways of better addressing challenges facing young people, especially the vulnerable groups. The results should encompass better knowledge and mutual understanding, strengthened partnerships and enhanced commitment to furthering the work on the issues at stake.

***Other elements***

The members of the Pool of European Youth Researchers and EKCYP correspondents will be among the participants of the conference. They will be invited to arrive half a day earlier to deal with the issues concerning their respective networks.

Yi2020 offers an occasion to celebrate the EU-CoE youth partnership's 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary, 10 years of the research and Euro-Med strands, as well as the 20<sup>th</sup> edition of Coyote.

***Working languages***

The conference will be held in English.

***Dates and venue***

1-3 October in the European Youth Centre Budapest