

Summer 2021

# EPLM NEWSLETTER

This newsletter provides updates from practice, research and policy on the topic of learning mobility in the youth field in Europe.



Despite many learning mobility activities being postponed or cancelled, there is still much going on. This newsletter gives an overview of recent and future planned events, both in face to face and in hybrid, online and blended formats, new tools and publications, podcasts and webinars, research outcomes and EPLM plans for the upcoming months.

[Find out more about EPLM here](#)



[@eplm.eu](https://www.facebook.com/eplm.eu)



[EPLM website](https://www.eplm.eu)

## THE EPLM IS...

The EPLM has a mission to engage in the improvement, knowledge, visibility and recognition of learning mobility in the youth field.

The European Platform for Learning Mobility in the youth field (EPLM) is an open participatory space for exchange and cooperation between practitioners, researchers and policy makers. By 'practitioners' the Platform means programme staff, trainers and consultants, youth workers and other multipliers in the youth field and in youth work.

The EPLM not only considers European youth mobility policies and programmes, but is also more generally interested in learning mobility as a set of complex social processes transforming the conditions of growing up in Europe.

The EPLM is coordinated by the EU-Council of Europe youth partnership.

# EPLM UPDATES

## The new shape of EPLM

In 2021 the EPLM structure was changed, and the platform now consists of three elements:

- The Resource Group, which consists of all the previous members of EPLM;
- The Core Steering Group, with a maximum of 11 members, representing all three sides of the triangle (policy, research and practice), responsible for making decisions and implementing the EPLM framework of action;
- Thematic Working Groups focus on particular topics relevant to EPLM work. At the moment there are two groups set up within a network: Community impact and Quality.

The first meeting of the EPLM in 2021 was held on 20 May, online, bringing together the members of both the Resource Group and the Core Steering Group. Core Steering Group also meets separately, in order to take into consideration the priorities and proposed activities.

Following the discussions, the group decided to focus on **sustainability** as it is the most relevant cross-cutting topic at the moment, and also follows the pre-pandemic priorities of the EPLM.



**EUROPEAN PLATFORM ON LEARNING MOBILITY**  
in the youth field

## SEVEN AREAS OF ACTION

European Platform on Learning Mobility

2021 - 2030

<b>BRING RESEARCH CLOSER TO PRACTITIONERS, YOUNG PEOPLE &amp; POLICYMAKERS</b> Support knowledge-building and evidence-based policy	<b>LINK TO YOUTH WORK AND VALUE-BASED EDUCATION</b> Mobility as a more accessible tool for youth work at grass roots, promoting specific values
<b>ENSURE QUALITY AND RECOGNITION</b> Ensure the mobility is fit for purpose. Link to competence frameworks and recognition of youth work achievements.	<b>EVALUATION, LEARNING TRANSFER &amp; COMMUNITY/ PERSONAL IMPACT</b> Measuring the difference a mobility project makes
<b>INFORMAL LEARNING &amp; MORE FLEXIBLE FORMATS</b> Allowing for the unplanned, unintended or the unexpected.	<b>DIGITAL LEARNING MOBILITY</b> Online and blended learning through digital tools

**SUSTAINABILITY**

Climate crisis, and other longer term thinking (social, cultural, economic levels)

# NEW EDUCATIONAL EU PROGRAMMES TO SUPPORT LEARNING MOBILITY 2021-2027

## Erasmus+

It is already here - more green and more inclusive: the new Erasmus+ programme with nearly double the budget and new exciting opportunities for young people and practitioners.

The [2021-2027 programme](#) places a strong focus on social inclusion, the green and digital transitions, and promoting young people's participation in democratic life. Learn more about the priorities in [The Programme Guide](#).

The main change in the field of youth concerns Key Action 2 Cooperation among organisations and institutions. Now organisations can apply for two different types of projects in this Action: Cooperation Partnerships and Small Scale Partnerships. Within Key Action 1 Learning Mobility of Individuals, young people can take part in Youth Participation Activities. Key Action 3 is focused on support for policy reforms.

## European Solidarity Corps

European Solidarity Corps (EuSC) continues to develop within the new financial settlement and will be carried out under the slogan "The power of together". The programme has the following priorities: inclusion and diversity; environmental protection; sustainable development and climate action; digital transformation; participation in democratic life; and prevention, promotion and support in the field of health.

Through EuSC young people can be involved in volunteering and solidarity projects. Volunteering projects can be done locally or abroad, for short term or long term, individually or in groups. Solidarity projects are initiated, developed and implemented by young people themselves and give them a chance to bring a positive change to their local communities.

Traineeships and jobs within EuSC are discontinued in the new programme. Find out more at the [EuSC portal](#).



THE POWER OF TOGETHER.



# 3rd EUROPEAN YOUTH WORK CONVENTION

## European Youth Work Agenda

[The 3rd European Youth Work Convention](#) took place on 7-10 December 2020 and brought together around one thousand participants from EU and Council of Europe member states. It was the largest online event for strengthening youth work across Europe. The Convention launched the [European Youth Work Agenda](#) and its implementation through the Bonn Process. If you missed it or are not sure what it is all about, check the introductory [video](#) and then read [the final declaration](#) of the 3rd EYWC, a nineteen-page document that describes the context, plan and signposts for the future. It puts 'flesh on the bones' of the European Youth Work Agenda.

The 3rd EYWC was hosted by the German Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth. JUGEND für Europa, the National Agency for the EU programmes Erasmus+ Youth in Action and European Solidarity Corps, was its partner in organising and developing the content of the event.

“The Bonn process is our common effort to make it [the youth work agenda] become real. So, let's put it into action. It is no less than the young people of Europe demand and deserve

Conclusion of the Declaration  
of 3rd European Youth Convention  
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The [31st Issue](#) “Boosting Opportunities! 3rd European Youth Work Convention EYWC 2020” of Coyote magazine has been recently published and is fully dedicated to this event. Nine articles explore the EYWC from different angles. They show the preparation process, reflect on the outcomes, follow-ups and present personal stories from different actors involved in the event.

We can familiarise ourselves with the perspectives of “pertinent players” from policy making field, impressions of a member of the declaration drafting group, voices of young people, researchers and youth workers.

Authors remind us about the power of youth work, the importance of its recognition and the impact of research. Don't forget also to have a look at new wisdom from [Spiffy!](#)



Illustration: Vanda Kovacs





# CONNECTING THE TRIANGLE - EXAMPLES OF EVENTS AND PUBLICATIONS FROM EPLM MEMBERS

## Connecting the triangle - Practice, Policy and Research

This newsletter presents some examples of events from the EPLM members that show the interconnection of practice, policy and research in the youth field.

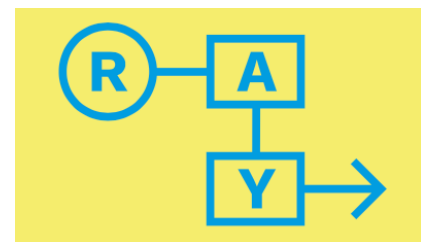
### Partial Agreement on Youth Mobility through the Youth Card

The 45th meeting of the Board of Co-ordination of the [Partial Agreement on Youth Mobility through the Youth Card](#) took place on-line on 18 March 2021, with the aim of revising the 2020 programme and preparing the 2021 work plan. It was an occasion to introduce recent developments, such as the 2021-2025 Strategy of the European Youth Card Association (EYCA), the Partial Agreement's main institutional partner. The results of a survey conducted among members and non-members of the Partial Agreement on Youth Mobility were presented and open for a preliminary exchange of views.



The Promotional seminar “The role of the Partial Agreement on Youth Mobility through the Youth Card in youth policies of member states” took place on 16 March 2021 on-line, with 30 participants. It was aimed principally at the governmental representatives responsible for youth affairs in the Council of Europe member states with the purpose of promoting the European Youth Card as a tool for policy development and implementation at local, national and European levels, and simultaneously to promote a special edition of the card co-branded with the Cultural Routes programme.

### News from Research-based analysis of European youth programmes network (RAY Network)



In March 2021 the RAY network published a [Research Report](#) and [Data Report: Effects and outcomes of the Erasmus+ Youth in Action Programme](#).

The research study looked at ways of ensuring the quality in Erasmus+ Youth in Action projects. The end goal was to inform youth policy development based on evidence and a better understanding of learning mobility in the youth field. The data report analysed survey results from Erasmus+ Youth in Action project leaders and participants taken between October 2019 and June 2020.



# YOUNG PEOPLE

## **#StandForSomething - young people have their say in the Conference on the Future of Europe**

EYCA launched a youth-led campaign to promote participation in the Conference on the Future of Europe: [#STANDFORSOMETHING](#) and calls for young people to take a stand and voice their views on the issues that matter to them.

As well as contributing to the official Conference platforms, young Europeans can join the conversation through the [We #STANDFORSOMETHING Conversations](#) Facebook group and attend the many events being planned across Europe.



## **#StandForSomething youth participation training - hybrid model**

On 24-28 March 2021, the Youth Activists of #StandForSomething gathered in Gran Canaria, Spain, for a hybrid youth participation training. Combining a methodology consisting of gamifying, virtual reality meetings, in person working groups and hybrid plenary discussions, mobility of young people was possible one year after the pandemic started. The training aimed at equipping young people with skills and knowledge at the conference on Future of Europe and preparing them to gather young people's input at grass roots level, over the next months.



#STANDFORSOMETHING is a youth engagement campaign coordinated by the European Youth Card Association and funded by the European Parliament. It's led by 21 Youth Activists from 16 countries, eager to engage young Europeans in conversations and activities about the Future of Europe.



## Young people’s needs in a post-pandemic Europe: The role of youth information and counselling

This [webinar](#) was organised by EYRICA on 14 April 2021 and it aimed at offering an overview of the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on young people, who are often referred to as the "viral generation". The role of youth information during the pandemic was analysed, starting from its function during the lockdown, including some good practice examples from ERYICA members.



European youth information and counselling agency

## Panel Discussion on Youth Information and support services in the “new normal”

Eurodesk held a panel discussion during its network meeting on the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on young people and youth information services. The Presidents of the three youth information and support networks – Eurodesk, ERYICA and EYCA – as well as DG Education and Culture of the European Commission shared views on the challenges and opportunities related to the crisis and how best to support young people. Have a look at the [outcomes](#) of this discussion.

## European Youth Information Day 2021

On 17 April 2021, ERYICA celebrated the European Youth Information Day (EYID) and ERYICA’s birthday all over Europe. [The EYID](#) was a special occasion to raise awareness about the right of young people to access full and reliable information and recognise the work of youth information workers. The EYID 2021 campaign aims to discuss mental health issues and emotional well-being among young people. Normalising the need for requesting emotional well-being support and breaking mental health stigmas, it gives a voice to young people to express themselves freely. It provides tools and resources to youth information workers to help them show the professionalism, closeness and experience to tackle any concern regarding mental health and well-being support.





# EVENTS AND PUBLICATIONS

## DIGITALISATION

### The Perspectives on Youth - Digital Youth Work

This year's Perspectives on youth series was launched with a paper [“A modest proposal. Is it time to develop digital and smart youth work strategies? A youth worker's perspective”](#) by Michele Di Paola, and a webinar tackling this topic. The paper was a starting point and the inspiration for a discussion between invited guests and the audience on the need to develop a digital youth work strategy and the challenges and opportunities in digital youth work.

“Perspectives on Youth” is a series of the EU-CoE youth partnership, which aims to stimulate critical and anticipative discussions on youth issues that need to be considered by youth policy makers in Europe to ensure policies are relevant to and have a positive impact on young people.



### Youth Knowledge Book #27 on young people, social inclusion and digitalisation

The EU-Council of Europe youth partnership published the [Youth Knowledge Book on social inclusion, digitalisation and young people](#), launching it on [11 May 2021](#). During the event editors and chapter authors of the publication presented their work and discussed the impact of digitalisation on young people's lives. Topics included digitalisation and youth policy, young refugees and migrants, young people with disabilities, youth mental health and youth work. You can listen to the podcasts from different chapters [here](#).

# QUALITY AND DIGITAL DIMENSION



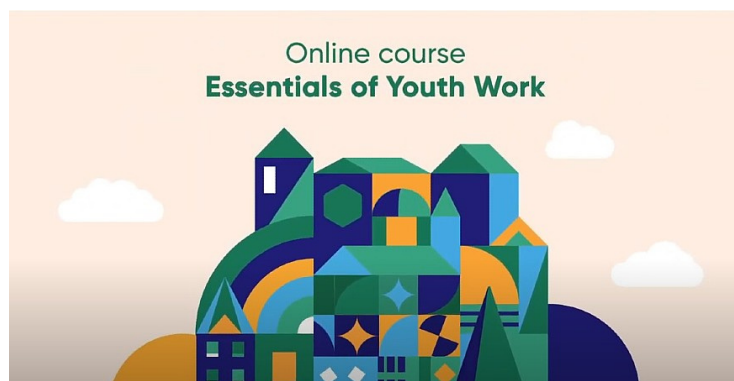
## News from Quality Team

The EPLM is reconnecting with Quality Ambassadors, who share Quality approach and promoting Quality tools ([Q!App](#) and [Q!Handbook](#)) with youth workers across Europe. The first meeting with Ambassadors was organised on 11 May 2021 and the next one, hopefully face-to-face, is planned in the autumn. Next year Quality Ambassadors will meet with stakeholders in research and policy fields to discuss the inclusion of a digital dimension in the quality framework of learning mobility.

## MOOC - Essentials of Youth Work

An updated online course from the EU-Council of Europe Youth Partnership offers participants an opportunity to learn more about the implementation of the European Youth Work Agenda and the Bonn process. The second edition of [the MOOC on Essentials of Youth Work](#) ran from 17 May until 1 July 2021. The updated content adds information about the outcomes of the European Youth Work Convention and other recent policy developments.

Along with the online course, webinars were organised to support participants' learning. They were live streamed on Facebook allowing anyone to watch and listen to discussions, presentations and explore different perspectives and practices in youth work in Europe.



### MOOC WEBINARS:

- 26 May 2021: Outreach and open youth work
- 2 June 2021: Ethics and values of youth workers
- 9 June 2021: 3rd European Youth Work Convention – results and implementation of the Bonn process
- 16 June 2021: Current debates related to youth work and the future of youth work.

All webinars can be found at the EU-Council of Europe youth partnership [Facebook page](#).



# PRACTICE: DIGITAL YOUTH WORK

## SNAC on Digital Youth Work

A dedicated Strategic National Agencies Cooperation (SNAC) project on Digital Youth Work of fifteen Erasmus+ Youth NAs and five expert partners has begun the process of preparing recommendations for practitioners, NAs and policy makers about the Quality of online/blended/hybrid learning mobility activities. The expert group meeting took place on 17 and 18 May 2021.



DIGITAL YOUTH WORK STRATEGIC NATIONAL AGENCY CO-OPERATION

SNAC DYW is working on national strategies for digital youth work, digital competences and digital capacity in youth work, enhancing young people's digital competences, focusing on new practices for online youth work and quality requirements for virtual and blended mobilities.

We are still in the process of adapting to digital learning, understanding processes and tools. Here are some useful terms concerning learning mobility activities and use of digital elements:

### ONLINE

FULLY VIRTUAL  
ACTIVITY.  
PARTICIPANTS  
ATTEND IT  
ONLINE ONLY

### HYBRID

COMBINATION OF ONLINE  
AND OFFLINE PARTICIPANTS.  
AT THE SAME TIME, SOME  
PARTICIPANTS ATTEND A  
MOBILITY EVENT IN PERSON  
AND SOME VIRTUALLY

### BLENDED

COMBINATION OF  
MOBILITY ABROAD AND  
VIRTUAL LEARNING. IN  
ADDITION TO A FACE-TO-  
FACE MEETING, SOME OF  
THE ACTIVITIES FOR  
PARTICIPANTS TAKE  
PLACE SYNCHRONOUSLY  
ONLINE



# GOOD PRACTICES

## Eurodesk Annual Overview

In 2020 the Eurodesk celebrated its 30th Anniversary. [The Eurodesk Annual Overview](#) was published, where the experience of adapting the services for young people and youth work practices are shared.



## Youth Research Dialogue

[The 1st Youth Research Dialogue](#) organised by the RAY Network took place on 23 June 2021 and was dedicated to ways of strengthening the youth sector after the pandemic. The meeting served as a platform to exchange various findings among researchers. The recording can be watched [here](#).

## Eurodesk Awards

Winners of Eurodesk Awards 2021 were announced. You can read more about all projects in the [Project Catalogue](#).



EURODESKWEB  
Europe4Youth, Sempre a Frente, EBU, Zespół Szkół Budowlanych w Koninie  
Poland



PHOTO-BIKE  
ORIENTEERING IN  
BALDONE  
Creative Minds For Culture Latvia



L'EUROPA IN CITTÀ  
E35 Foundation  
Italy



SHARE THE SUMMER -  
BINGO!  
Jaunuoliu dienos centras  
Lithuania

## Service Design in Youth Information

This [webinar](#), outlining good practices and project results, was conducted in collaboration with the Council of Europe on 8 June 2021. ERYICA and its partners have been an innovative force in integrating service design into youth information services. Service Design is a methodology for creating services with a user-centered approach and design thinking.

## Learning Mobility in times of Climate Change

IJAB is implementing a [project](#) focusing on increasing sustainability in international youth mobility. To provide an overview of existing climate sensitive youth mobility policies, youth mobility actors and good practices, an international mapping is planned. Online consultations will involve young people and its results will be available in autumn 2021. The recommendations will be prepared and then transferred into practice.

# PUBLICATIONS

## T-kit #14 on Value-Based Learning in Mobility

T-kit #14 on Value-Based Learning in Mobility of the EU-CoE youth partnership examines values as the foundation of learning and development of attitudes, skills and knowledge, and putting those in action through their behaviour. Value-based learning aims to encourage self-reflection, draw values into the open, to promote specific values and to encourage learners to act on them. It is due to be published in summer 2021 at the youth partnership [webpage](#).

The T-kit will be presented at the International Tool Fair XV - Back to the future 4-8 October 2021 in Vila Nova de Gaia, Portugal during the series of workshops "Opening the T-kit Value-based learning in mobility treasure chest".

### [Visible Value](#)

The youth partnership is updating its mapping of tools and good practices to achieve better recognition of youth work and non-formal learning/education at European and national levels.

## Euro-work publication on traineeship and work mobility opportunities

Eurodesk is presenting a new [series of brochures](#) aimed at providing quality youth information and helping you to expand mobility opportunities across the EU.

## Community Impact - Practical Guide

The Community Impact - Practical Guide for the European Solidarity Corps. This is an online bite-sized introduction for the practice field about what is community, what is impact and how to include community impact in European Solidarity Corps projects. Community impact is becoming more and more relevant in learning mobility projects. This visual tool is based on the research supported during the past 2 years by the EPLM and the EU-Council of Europe youth partnership. This Practical Guide aims to be hands-on, explaining some of the basics so that more and more people (especially practitioners) can feel confident in exploring the concept. You can read the full guide or pick and choose which section is most useful for you. We hope it brings 'Community Impact' a bit closer to more people around Europe. This publication was developed by SALTO ESC RC and is available on the EPLM [website](#).



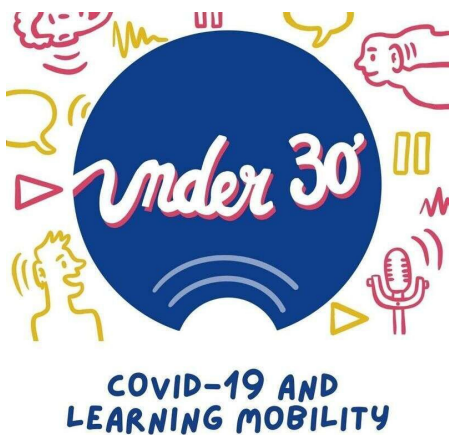
At the same time the youth partnership is working on the research on the indicators of community impact. During 2021, desk review of the community impact indicators was finalised, and the indicators will be tested by the end of 2021.

# PODCASTS

Podcasts are becoming a more popular instrument to communicate the latest trends in the youth field, share good practices and promote publications. You need only a smartphone and internet and you can listen to them at breakfast, while jogging, in your car, before bedtime... virtually everywhere. They are made for young people, youth workers, trainers, activists, researchers, policymakers, NAs officers...everyone! Here we present the most interesting podcasts related to learning mobility and youth work:

## UNDER 30'

[UNDER 30'](#) is the podcast series of the EU-Council of Europe youth partnership that brings research results, explores trends in young people's lives and themes relevant for youth policy and practice. The podcast series, launched in December 2020, tackles current issues regarding youth work and presents various publications, initiatives and activities of the youth partnership for example [COVID-19 and learning mobility](#), [The impact of COVID-19 on youth services](#) and [MOOC on Essentials of Youth Work](#) episodes.



## DIGITALISATION AND INCLUSION

SALTO Youth Inclusion & Diversity Resource Center created this series of conversations with many experts in the youth work field, about DIGITALISATION AND INCLUSION and how to aim for inclusion in digital youth work. There were already six episodes released dedicated to inclusion in digital youth work, research and competences. They are available at [spotify](#) or [google podcasts](#).

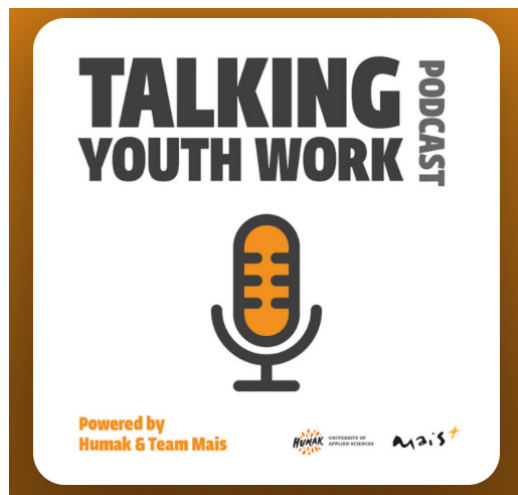


## [#EAYW VIDEO PODCASTS](#)

European Academy on Youth Work has also prepared a series of podcasts. Each episode hosts different experts from the field. So far we can listen to three episodes, where researchers, practitioners and policy makers share their thoughts regarding innovation, quality and trends in youth work.



# PODCASTS



## TALKING YOUTH WORK

It is a series of podcast interviews with Youth Work experts and practitioners hosted by Anita Silva and Rui Branco. In a relaxed atmosphere they discuss non-formal learning and best practices. In 2021 the following episodes were released: 5 Reasons Why International Youth Work Sucks with Carmine Rodi, The Future of Work with Gonçalo Hall and What's new in Erasmus+ Youth Exchanges with Paavo Pyykkönen. Talking Youth Work episodes can be found in all main streaming podcasts applications.

## HOP PODCASTS

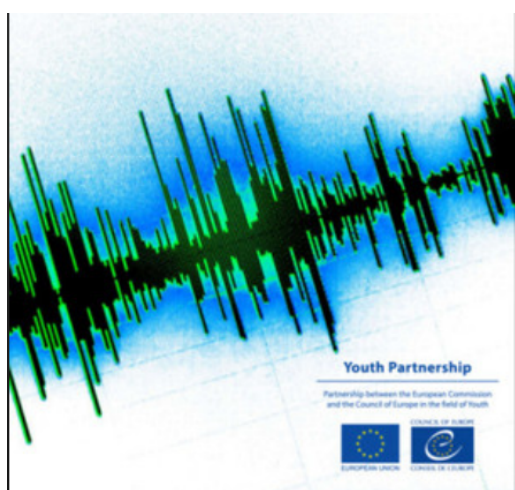
[HOP Online Learning platform](#), which fosters online learning in Erasmus+ Youth in Action and European Solidarity Corps programmes, apart from offering exciting courses based on the Moodle software, continues the series of podcasts.



This year HOP published three episodes so far, dedicated to digital transformation in youth work, adapting activities into online format, European Youth Work Agenda, inclusive online learning and accessibility of online environments. HOP platform is managed by SALTO Eastern Europe and Caucasus in cooperation with other SALTO Resource Centres and National Agencies of Erasmus+ Youth / European Solidarity Corps. You can find all episodes at the HOP platform [facebook page](#).

## YOUTH WORK ESSENTIALS

A [podcast](#) of the EU-CoE partnership in the field of youth came back in 2021 with a new episode „Advocating for youth work-Youth work agenda in practice”. The podcasts were prepared for the MOOC on Youth Work Essential and are available in major streaming portals.



# WHAT'S ON THE HORIZON

## EYE 2021

The Q!App and Q!Handbook will be presented by EPLM members at the EYE 2021 in October 2021. [The European Youth Event \(EYE\)](#) brings together at the European Parliament in Strasbourg thousands of young people from all over the European Union and beyond, to shape and share their ideas on the future of Europe. The event will feature both virtual and in-person activities in Strasbourg, as well as new hybrid formats. EYE2021 is the culmination of the European Parliament's youth consultation process for the Conference on the Future of Europe. Young people's ideas on the future of Europe will be collected on the [YouthIdeas.eu](#) platform and explored in ideation workshops during the event. After a public voting process during EYE2021, the ideas will be consolidated into a report, presented to the Members of the Conference and fed into the political debate of the Conference.



## European Academy on Youth Work

The second edition of [EAYW](#) is planned for 2-5 November 2021 in Slovenia. The EAYW aims to support innovation in youth work and youth work policy and to promote the development of quality youth work. It aims at offering a regular platform for reflection on hot European topics with relevance to the youth field, on recent or current developments and future trends. EAYW has already started a podcast and is planning to present a blog "Innovative practice of the month" with some reflections about how to stimulate and implement innovative and creative developments in youth work.



## The RAY network events

The RAY Network Meeting is planned for 28 September - 1 October 2021 in Maribor, Slovenia.

The RAY PART Research Conference is scheduled for 18-21 October 2021 at the European Youth Centre in Strasbourg.