

Winter 2021

EPLM NEWSLETTER

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



This newsletter gives an overview of recent and future planned events, both in face to face and online formats. It also covers new tools, publications, podcasts and webinars, research outcomes and EPLM plans for the upcoming months.

The work of EPLM is coordinated by the EU-Council of Europe Youth Partnership.

[Find out more about EPLM here](#)



THE EPLM IS...

The European Platform on Learning Mobility in the Youth field (EPLM) is a **space for exchange and cooperation** of youth organisations, researchers, policy makers and practitioners, such as trainers and youth workers. It strives to create conditions for **the development of high-quality and sustainable learning mobility for all** in the youth field in Europe.

In order to achieve this vision, the EPLM is working to pursue quality, impact, knowledge, inclusivity, participation, sustainability, visibility and recognition of learning mobility (including blended or online) in non-formal and informal education and learning in Europe.

EPLM UPDATES

In 2021, all EPLM meetings took place online, continuing the platform's work on Quality tools and community impact of learning mobility. The research and exploration of different types of learning mobility and sustainability in learning mobility were kicked off as a new focus of the EPLM.

The learning mobility world is in a transition- whereas in many places the majority of activities are implemented online, there are examples of successful in-person events that are slowly beginning to take place. This triggers a series of questions: how will learning mobility look in a post-pandemic world? Do we need to introduce new rules and conditions? After almost two years of online work, will the methods we used in virtual reality be relevant for in-person meetings? To what extent will online, hybrid and blended formats stay with us?

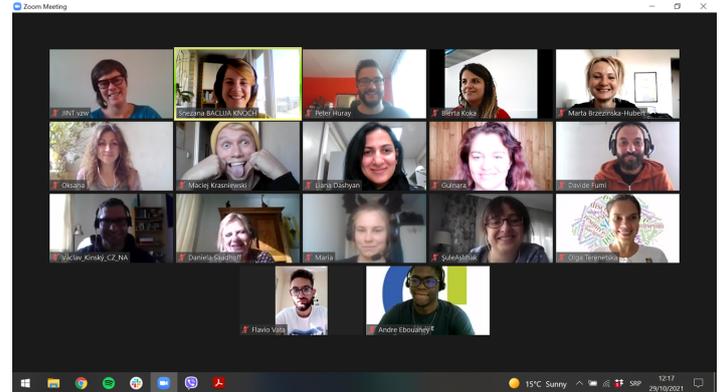


SEVEN AREAS OF ACTION	
European Platform on Learning Mobility	
2021 - 2030	
BRING RESEARCH CLOSER TO PRACTITIONERS, YOUNG PEOPLE & POLICYMAKERS Support knowledge-building and evidence-based policy	LINK TO YOUTH WORK AND VALUE-BASED EDUCATION Mobility as a more accessible tool for youth work at grass roots, promoting specific values
ENSURE QUALITY AND RECOGNITION Ensure the mobility is fit for purpose. Link to competence frameworks and recognition of youth work achievements.	EVALUATION, LEARNING TRANSFER & COMMUNITY/ PERSONAL IMPACT Measuring the difference a mobility project makes
INFORMAL LEARNING & MORE FLEXIBLE FORMATS Allowing for the unplanned, unintended or the unexpected.	DIGITAL LEARNING MOBILITY Online and blended learning through digital tools
SUSTAINABILITY Climate crisis, and other longer term thinking (social, cultural, economic levels)	



Reconnecting with Quality Ambassadors

The EPLM is reconnecting with Quality Ambassadors, who share its Quality approach, and promoting Quality tools ([Q!App](#) and [Q!Handbook](#)) with youth workers across Europe. A seminar, *Quality Wave*, took place online from 27 to 29 October 2021, bringing together current and new Quality Ambassadors. They identified the profile of a Quality Ambassador, looked at how the Learning Mobility reality has changed over recent years and discussed valuable updates for the Quality Tools. A Quality Ambassadors representative joined the EPLM Resource Group in 2021.



What is a Quality Ambassador?

A person who organises learning mobility projects, believes that there is no quantity without quality, is willing to use and promote Quality Tools and support newcomers to do the same.

"Any tool is as good as the hands that are using it..."

"Many are stuck in our own problems these days. Let's get together and discuss what we can do..."

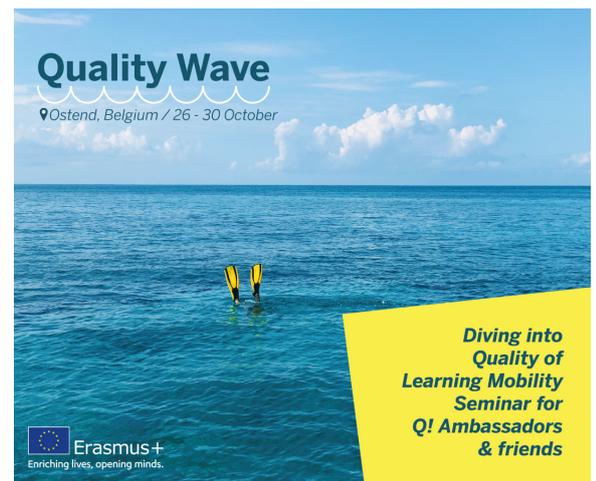


"I feel motivated to focus on quality when a participant recognises the project was a learning experience, not just a meeting of international friends..."

The need of Quality Tool updates and the relaunching of learning mobility

The Quality Tools were presented at the European Youth Event (EYE) in Strasbourg, France and at the XV Tool Fair in Vila Nova de Gaia, Portugal. Translations of Handbook into German and Spanish are in process, in order to bring the Quality Tools closer to practitioners across Europe.

The Quality working group is focusing on identifying new aspects of learning mobility in order to update the Quality Tools in the upcoming years.





Events



Community Impact in Practice - a residential seminar

[The Community Impact in Learning Mobility Projects - A practical guide](#) was presented at the *Community Impact in Practice* seminar that took place from 17 to 20 October in Vienna, Austria with the support of SALTO European Solidarity Corps resource centre. Practitioners reflected on the concept of community impact and ways of measuring it, and gave feedback on the guide. They identified needs in the youth field related to community impact and planned further steps towards increasing recognition of the topic and its inclusion in learning mobility and ESC projects.

Launching Community Impact guide

SALTO European Solidarity Corps organised its first hybrid event on community impact of learning mobility on 18 October. Participants discussed what the European Solidarity Corps Programme leaves in communities and how the impact can be actively enhanced and measured.

In parallel 10 participants from different European organisations had the chance to test and work with the guidebook and reflect on how to use it in their communities.



Research

[Community Impact Indicators for Learning Mobility. Desk research](#)

was published in 2021, exploring three thematic areas:

1. Skills, competencies, employability
2. Active citizenship and participation
3. Social capital, culture and return migration

Testing of the research and indicators is in process, and the results and proposed dashboard will be published by the end of the year.

In order to promote the findings of the research and a practical guide, EU-CoE Youth Partnership [recorded a podcast](#) with SALTO ESC and the authors.



SUSTAINABILITY

The EPLM kicked off work on sustainability in learning mobility with exploratory research on this topic. The main aims of the study are to prepare an operational definition of sustainability in learning mobility, to understand the relation between sustainability and learning mobility, to map the main actors involved in this field and identify examples of practices. This research will be extended in 2022 with the mapping of the practices and development of compendium.

At the EPLM Resource Group meeting on 25 October, examples of sustainable practices in the context of learning mobility were presented and discussed.

This will be further explored during 2022-23, at the planned EPLM conference on sustainability in learning mobility, hosted by the German NA.

Sustainability in learning mobility means aligning operations of a given learning mobility organisation on the procedural level with environmental, social, and economic sustainability principles.

Sustainability in Learning Mobility: Exploratory Study



Examples of practices:

- Learning Mobility in Times of Climate Change (LEMOCC)- IJAB (International Youth Service of the Federal Republic of Germany).
- ABC of Sustainability - Insights from teaching practice - European Network for Solidarity Economy RIPPESS.
- International Voluntary Service (IVS): Youth Mobility and Environmental Sustainability - CCIVS (Coordinating Committee for International Voluntary Service).
- Sustainable travel and inclusion in tourism - Karavaan.
- Greening the youth sector: Sustainability checklist for youth organisations - EU-Council of Europe Youth Partnership.
- Sustainability practices in youth-lead youth work and strengthening youth climate voice in the EU - Generation Climate Europe, AEGEE/European Students' Forum.

LEARNING MOBILITY EU PROGRAMMES

Erasmus+ 2021-2027

The new Erasmus+ programme was launched in spring 2021. Organisations are starting to implement their activities under the new priorities: social inclusion, the green and digital transitions, and promoting young people's participation in democratic life.

The next deadline for submitting proposals for KA1 Learning mobility for individual projects in the field of youth is 23 February 2022.

Promoting active citizenship, increasing quality, innovation and recognition of youth work and strengthening employability of young people are additional priorities in KA2 Cooperation among organisations and institutions for the youth field. The next deadline for KA2 projects is 23 March 2023.

Apart from residential mobilities, beneficiaries can apply for grants supporting virtual exchanges. Learn more about Erasmus + in [The Programme Guide 2022](#).



European Solidarity Corps

European Solidarity Corps will focus on Volunteering Projects, Volunteering Teams in High Priority Areas and Solidarity Projects. In 2022 the Volunteering Teams in High Priority Areas, apart from regular priorities of the programme, will be focusing on preservation of cultural heritage and promoting healthy lifestyles.

Deadline for applications is 23 February 2022.

Find out more at the [EuSC portal](#).



THE POWER OF TOGETHER.

ALMA

A new programme of the European Commission, ALMA (Aim, Learn, Master, Achieve), was announced as a response to the youth unemployment deepened by COVID-19. It aims at helping NEETs (youth not in employment, education or training) to find their way to the job market through education, vocational training or employment in their home countries and work placements. It will provide them with short-term work experience in another EU country. ALMA should complement the existing mobility programmes Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps and will be implemented under the [European Social Fund Plus](#).

CONNECTING THE TRIANGLE - ACTIVITIES, EVENTS AND PUBLICATIONS FROM EPLM MEMBERS

EU-Council of Europe Youth Partnership

ABOUT TIME! A reference manual for youth policy from a European perspective

“[ABOUT TIME! A reference manual for youth policy from a European perspective](#)”, published by the EU-Council of Europe Youth Partnership, gathers knowledge and debates central to the European agenda in the field over the last 15 years. The manual helps stakeholders to explore, understand and engage with the youth policy framework in their context, from their own perspective, and provides them with a sense of all the stages of youth policy making. Most importantly, it includes a wide range of standards, tools and resources developed by and for the benefit of youth policy makers, youth work practitioners, youth researchers and young people across Europe.

[Read the manual](#) and [listen to the Under 30' podcast episode](#), where authors Howard Williamson, Zara Lavchyan and Max Fras introduce the manual, who it is for and how it was developed while discussing the state of youth policy nowadays. For more information, watch the recording of the [digital launch event](#) with invited guests Matjaž Gruden, Directorate of Democratic Participation, Council of Europe and Babis Papaioannou, Policy Officer at DG EAC, European Commission, facilitated by Mila Lukić, member of the Advisory Council on Youth of the Council of Europe.

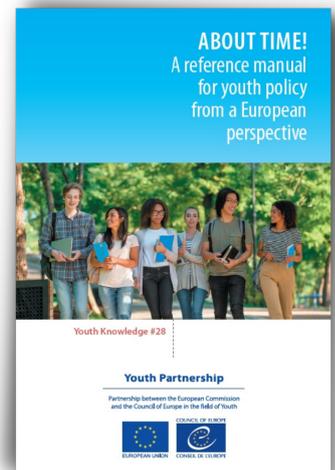


Illustration: Paul Dumitru

SOCIAL RIGHTS

EU-Council of Europe Youth Partnership

Perspectives on Youth – social right

The EU-Council of Europe Youth Partnership hosted a webinar on Young people's social rights: housing and co-working trends in the Perspectives on Youth series. With our invited guests, Panagiotis Chatzimichail, European Youth Forum and Edo Sadikovic, Sende and Village Nomads we have discussed young people's access to housing across Europe, the changing context of youth employment and new trends in co-living and co-working spaces for youth.



Emerging trends in coworking spaces among young people

Webinar also included presentations of two new research papers on the topic: [Access to independence and housing exclusion](#) by Chloé Serme-Morin and [Emerging trends in coworking spaces among young people](#) by Antigoni Papageorgiou.

Watch the recording of the [webinar](#) and have a look at previous [Perspectives on Youth](#) contributions exploring social values, social rights and solidarity.

Youth Partnership Key Results in 2021:

36 papers and publications

24 videos and webinars

14 podcasts

Second edition of the MOOC on Youth Work Essentials

16 experts meeting related to the projects, studies and research

4 meetings to consult key partners and experts on the next workplan

-> many of them directly or indirectly tackled learning mobility!

GREENING THE YOUTH SECTOR

EU-Council of Europe Youth Partnership

Greening the youth sector - Sustainability Checklist



The Youth Partnership supported the Council of Europe's Youth Department in "thinking green", by developing a [sustainability checklist](#), which serves as guidelines for youth organisations and young people, to make environmentally conscious choices during the activities. It consists of 81 statements for self-evaluation on organising activities for young people in a sustainable way and tackles the following areas of action: education, teamwork, accommodation and venue, food and consumables, transport, printing and paper, welcome packs and promotional gifts, buying fair trade and reducing digital footprint. The checklist also presents important facts regarding these topics in the context of sustainability and useful tips on how to make youth activities greener.

The checklist and the [animated video](#) presenting it are available in English and French. If you would like to know more about the checklist, watch the [webinar](#) on Greening the youth sector: sustainability checklist.

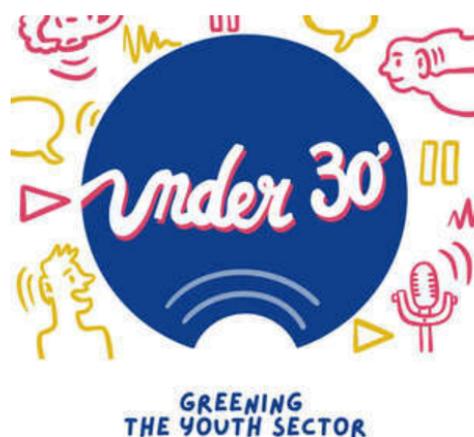
"Young people are leading the climate justice movement, advocating for more sustainable practices at the global level and making environmentally-conscious choices in their daily lives. "Thinking green" is a continuous process, requiring creativity and adaptability. Our sustainability checklist serves as guidelines for integrating sustainability into all aspects of youth sector activities."

[Greening the youth sector - sustainability checklist](#)

[Animated video](#)



In the fifteenth episode of [Under 30' podcast](#) the author of the checklist, Neringa Tumėnaitė, and chair of the Joint Council on Youth (CMJ) task force on greening the youth sector, Pegah Moulana, reflect on the need to take ecological steps in our activities as a small contribution to combating the climate crisis.



TOWARDS GREEN AND INCLUSION

Eurodesk Strategy 2022-2027: On the path to greener and more inclusive youth information services

[The Eurodesk Strategy 2022-2027](#) publication sets out the long-term direction for the Eurodesk Network with the aim of increasing its impact and strengthening its role in the youth (information) field in Europe. Within the strategy Eurodesk will support innovation and creativity, a green transition, the ambition of leaving no one behind and the recognition of youth information.

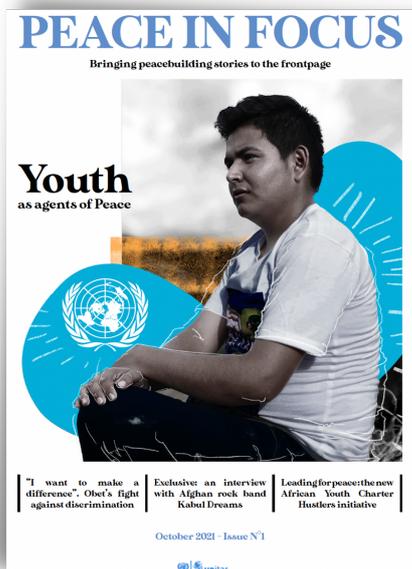


A Europe in which European opportunities are accessible for all result in a more resilient and equal society, increasing the opportunities for active participation.



Peace in focus

The Division for Peace at the UNITAR (United Nations Institute for Training and Research) issues a new magazine Peace in focus that aims to inspire people into becoming agents of peace and change in their own communities, by sharing stories of community leaders around the world that are working towards the sustainable development goals at all levels. The [first issue](#) published in October 2021 is devoted to youth as agents of peace and presents stories of young people from all over the world. One of the articles tackles an issue of environment and shows how the fight against climate change contributes to peacebuilding. Authors present data, according to which 52% of young Europeans believe Climate Change will lead to more migration and 41% believe they will have to move due to Climate Change, and give recommendations to join local and environmental youth organisations to reach out policy makers and join the activism movement.





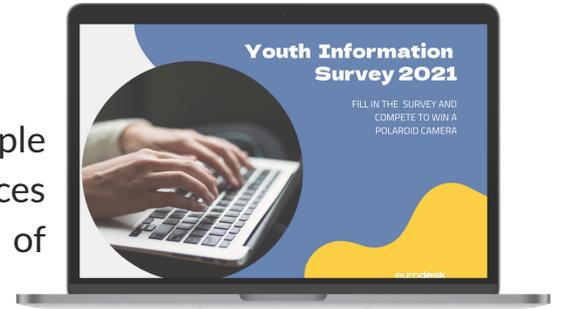
YOUTH INFORMATION



Eurodesk

Eurodesk Survey 2021 on Youth Information and Mobility

This year's Eurodesk Survey, gathering data from young people between 15 and 35 years old, focused on their experiences with accessing mobility information, their perception of learning mobility and their preference of outreach channels.



Are young people still willing to participate in learning mobility activities?

How has their attitude towards this type of activity changed during COVID-19 times?

The results of the survey and focus groups are coming next year!

Time to Move campaign



Time to Move is Eurodesk's flagship campaign that informs young people about learning mobility programmes. The initiative aims at inspiring young people and helping them in finding the most suitable opportunities abroad. During the month of October, the campaign brings together hundreds of youth organisations around Europe. In 2021 the campaign was presented at a new [website](#) and collated around 1000 events in over 30 countries on the interactive activity map.

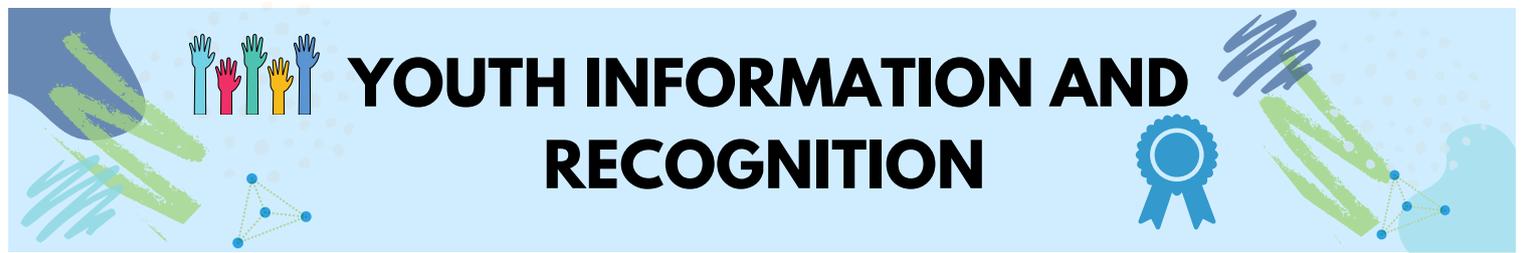
A virtual game Time to move: *Adventures in Berlin*

TIME TO MOVE:
Adventures in Berlin

Ready for adventures?
Watch a [trailer](#) and play the
[game!](#)

Eurodesk launched a new online two-player point-and-click game inspired by escape rooms, "Time to Move: Adventures in Berlin". Players cooperate to solve riddles, challenges and take part in volunteering and green projects to find their grandmother Emma, who mysteriously disappeared in Berlin. They can play together on two separate screens and communicate with each other to advance in quests.





YOUTH INFORMATION AND RECOGNITION

Joint initiatives

European Youth Information Quality Label

The European Youth Information Quality Label sets out to provide wider recognition for quality youth information services and to support young people in finding quality information. It is linked to a set of quality assessment criteria, mechanisms and tools. It has been developed in the framework of the Council of Europe – ERYICA Partnership Agreement in 2019-2020. The Label provides a visible sign that tells young people that a particular piece of information is verified, true and unbiased: therefore it does not require further verification. The Label is awarded to organisations that provide different youth information services in recognition for their quality service and the respect of the principles of the [European Youth Information Charter](#). Next deadline to apply for a Label is 30 April 2022.



YouthInfoComp

Eurodesk and ERYICA published [YouthInfoComp: Youth Information Worker Competence Framework](#), which is the first European Competence Framework for youth information workers and organisations working with youth information.

A launch seminar, *Responding to Future Needs - the new Competence Framework for Youth Information Work*, was organised online on 10 November and gathered organisations and institutions in the youth field. The framework was presented along with practices from Europe followed by a discussion regarding the future needs for quality youth information and support.

GOOD PRACTICES

SALTO PI Awards 2021

On 11 November, SALTO PI awarded projects in five categories. Winners received a place in [Flagships Projects Collection](#), a chance to have their projects promoted through SALTO networks and a 700 Euro award.

The winning and shortlisted projects help to understand how to use European funding programmes to prepare quality, inspiring activities. Watch the ceremony and find out more about this initiative and awarded projects [here](#).

SALTO PI Awards 2021 WINNERS



Digital

Transformation

[Reimagining Recognition](#)

an open digital badge system designed to develop the capacity of youth work organisations in recognising and validating the activities and competencies of young people and youth workers

Moldova, Ukraine, Georgia, Armenia, Lithuania, Finland, Ireland

[Green Steps](#)

an environmental-artistic project, where urban waste is collected and turned into massive art installations.

Portugal (Madeira)



Environment
and Climate
Change



Solidarity
and
Volunteering

[Per una vita dei Sordi Senior](#)

a programme led by six young deaf millennials with a mission to train the older generations of deaf people to use online banking and other relevant digital services at home, thus gaining access to information and skills required in this digital age

Italy

[Safer Cities For Girls](#)

a project set out to accomplish trouble-less living of girls, young ladies and women in urban areas by combating street harassment

Belgium, Spain



Youth
Participation



Media &
Information
Literacy

[DigiYouth](#)

a programme that aims to digitally empower and make the voices of young people in Armenia, especially minorities and those living in remote regions, heard

Armenia

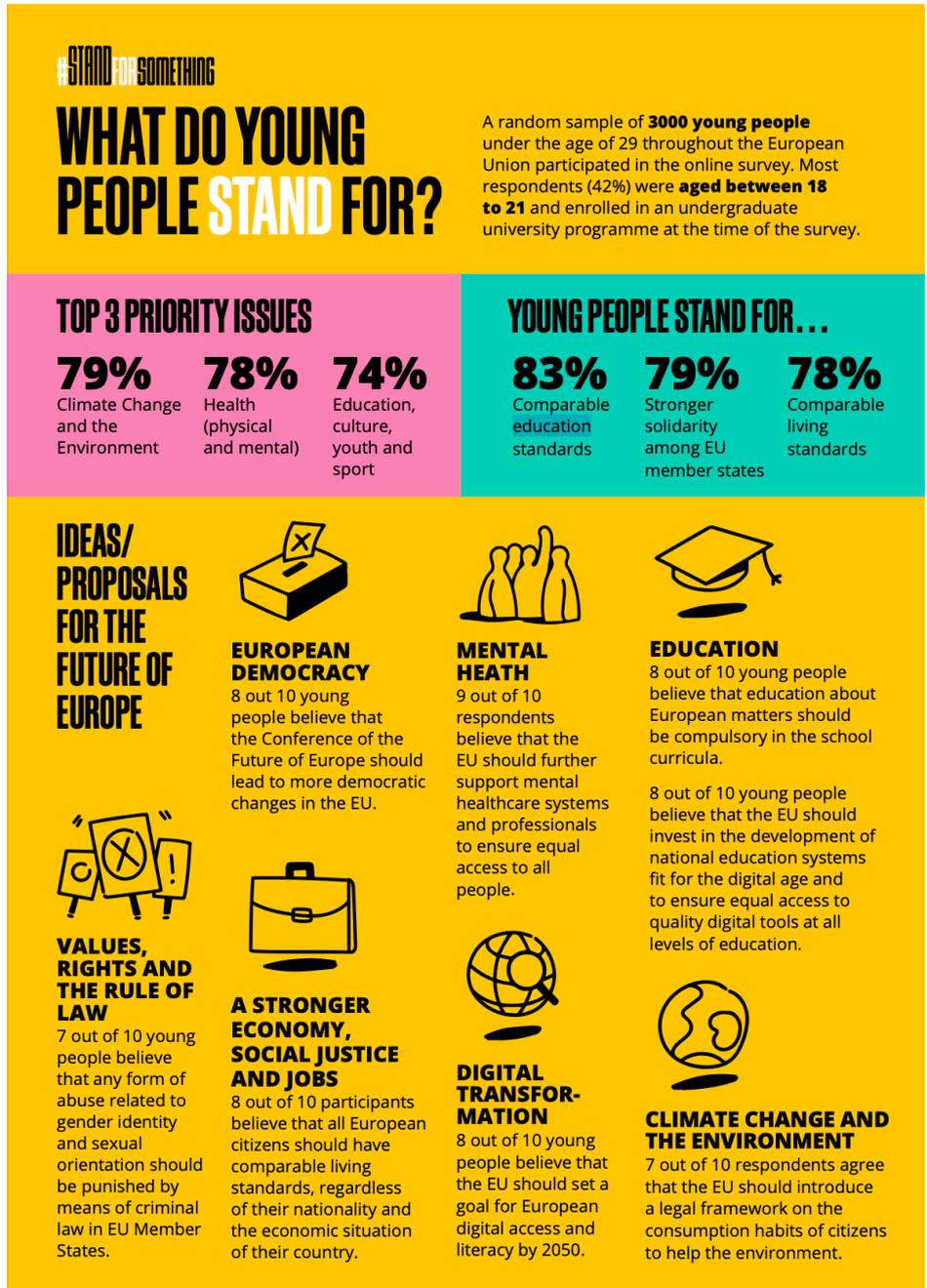
YOUNG PEOPLE

Youth priorities and young people's ideas for the future of Europe - [EYCA Insights](#)

In the framework of the #STANDFORSOMETHING project, the European Youth Card Association has published a [Research Report](#) on the opinions and attitudes of youth towards the European Union. Its aim is to highlight young people's priorities and bring forward their ideas, which will feed into the Conference for the Future of Europe process. The insights were gathered during over 100 grassroots activities across Europe and matched with the findings of a survey which collected 3000 responses from young Europeans.

#STANDFORSOMETHING is a European-wide youth outreach campaign launched in May 2021. It is organised by the European Youth Card Association (EYCA) and co-funded by the European Union.

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





INCLUSION AND DIGITALISATION



The Inclusion & Diversity Forum

[#TheIDForum2021](#), organised by SALTO Inclusion & Diversity, took place from 29 November to 2 December in Ostend, Belgium. It brought together youth workers, youth leaders, representatives of National Agencies and other stakeholders to exchange practises, celebrate achievements and discuss topics related to inclusion and diversity. The programme was structured around participatory activities. The Forum explored new formats and possibilities in the new Erasmus+ programme and European Solidarity Corps, and in the new Inclusion & Diversity Strategy. I&D Roadmap, a practical and useful product to get more inclusion and diversity in the EU youth programmes, was presented.



Photo by Javi Quilez



Digital Transformation

SALTO Participation & Information prepared a new section [Digital Transformation](#) in the Participation Resource Pool, where characteristics of a sustainable and inclusive digital transformation are explored. The section includes [Digital transformation in the European Youth Field: an extended definition including key areas for consideration](#) and other valuable resources that support the development of the approach towards digital transformation in the youth field and in the new EU Youth programmes.



PAST EVENTS AND PUBLICATIONS

Eurodyyssey programme

The new [website](#) of the Eurodyyssey programme has been launched. Eurodyyssey is a pioneering youth mobility programme of AER that offers internship opportunities for young people across Europe. Over the 35 years of its existence it has provided an opportunity to over 10,000 young people to acquire valuable professional and language competencies while experiencing the cultural life of the destination region.

Eurodyyssey Forum took place on 2 and 3 December 2021, online. The Forum was also an occasion to present the work of the EPLM in the area of sustainability to the regions, and share the preliminary results of the research on this topic, and EU-CoE Youth Partnership's [sustainability checklist](#).

SNAC on Digital Youth Work



Agenda 2030: Transformation Regions, Changing the World Conference

On 28 and 29 October 2021, the Assembly of European Regions held a long-awaited Agenda 2030 Conference in Strasbourg, in partnership with Region Grand Est and the City of Strasbourg. The goal of the Conference was to show that regions play a key role, alongside cities, in facilitating the transformation which is required to successfully implement and achieve the goals in the 2030 Agenda. As a result a [manifesto](#) was signed which calls for closer cooperation between local and regional authorities, civil society (especially young people), local communities, academia and other relevant actors and presents seven types of action to reach Agenda 2030.



In the framework of Strategic National Agency Cooperation on Digital Youth Work, SALTO Inclusion & Diversity gathered information and data about practices, methodologies and experiences regarding online, blended and hybrid formats of activities. You can read about the experiences of National Agencies of Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps, NGO's and SALTO Centres regarding learning mobility activities with a digital dimension in a [report](#).

An expert group formulated conclusions and recommendations for organisations, NAs and policy makers about the quality of hybrid, blended, online mobility activities and published them in a document, [Learning experiences of hybrid, blended and online mobility activities. Conclusions of the expert group process](#).

PAST EVENTS

International Tool Fair XV

After a one year break, from 4 to 8 October a residential International Tool Fair XV *Back to the future* took place in Vila Nova de Gaia, Portugal. The event gathered practitioners, trainers, youth workers, youth leaders and teachers to test and taste new tools of work with young people in non-formal learning approach, analyse, exchange and evaluate them. Participants explored new methodologies and discussed them in the context of ongoing crises.

The next edition of the tool fair will take place in Marseille, France in autumn 2022.

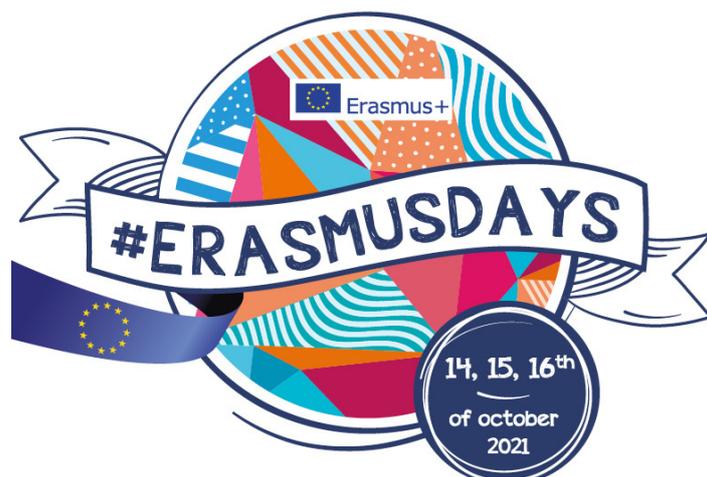


#ErasmusDays

5th edition of [#ErasmusDays](#) took place from 14 to 16 October and consisted of 5667 events organised in 67 countries all over the world. This year the campaign focused on the Erasmus+ programmes priorities: inclusion, environmental protection, digital transformation and participation in democratic life. The 6th edition of ErasmusDays will take place on 12-14 October 2022.

5th Eastern Partnership Youth Forum

[5th Eastern Partnership Youth Forum Youth participation in democratic processes](#) took place online on 22 and 23 November 2021 as a side-event of the forthcoming Eastern Partnership Summit in Brussels on the 15 of December 2021. The main aim of the Forum was to enhance an inclusive platform for youth participation in line with the EU Youth Goal 9- Space and Participation for All. It gathered around 150 youth workers, young people and youth policy-makers from the Eastern Partnership countries and the EU member states who discussed an inclusive environment and adequate conditions aiming to achieve the meaningful participation of young people in democratic processes.



WHAT'S ON THE HORIZON



European Year of Youth - 2022!

The European Commission announced in September that 2022 will be the European Year of Youth (YoY), with the following priorities: digitalisation, green, participation and social inclusion of young people. The YoY will honour and support young people, whose generation sacrificed the most during the pandemic, encourage them to become active citizens, promote opportunities for them and draw inspiration from them. With the European Year of Youth, the Commission intends, in cooperation with the European Parliament, Member States, regional and local authorities, stakeholders and young people themselves to raise young people's engagement and participation. This announcement caused a lot of excitement in the youth field and many organisations have already started consultations, preparation, development of the ideas and planning events.

Coyote #32 Well-being?!

A new issue of the [Coyote magazine](#), which is coming out in December 2021, is fully devoted to wellbeing. It explores different angles and dimensions of wellbeing in the context of youth work and young people. The issue tackles impact of COVID-19 on young people and recovery steps, as well as mindfulness, sports and outdoors, mental health issues and return to residential practices.



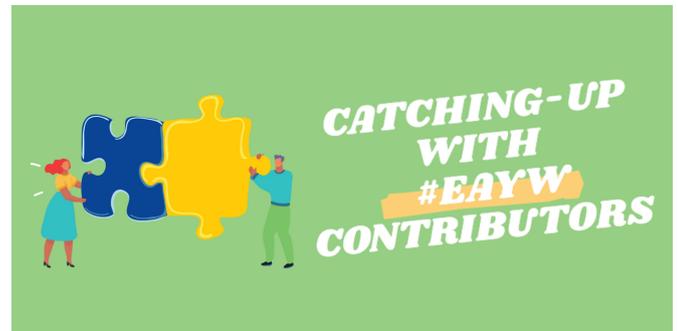
Illustration: Coline Robin

WHAT'S ON THE HORIZON



European Academy on Youth Work

The second edition of [EAYW](#) was planned for November 2021, however due to the COVID-19 restrictions, the organisers decided to postpone the residential event until spring 2022. In a meantime EAYW started publishing blog articles and launched a series of webinars: Learning in times of disruption and change. Once a month, participants will have an opportunity to explore the concept of innovation from different angles and find out about good practices in a field.



EAYW Webinars

Innovation in times of disruption

Recognising larger trends, seeing interconnections with youth work

Rethinking innovation – what kind of innovator are you?

Cultures of innovation

How to be future fit

- 4 November 2021
- 14 December 2021
- 27 January 2022
- 10 March 2022
- 21 April 2022



Europe Talks Solidarity

This series of events and publications aims to gather expertise on solidarity, create a space for discussion and highlight different angles and perspectives.

In summer SALTO European Solidarity Corps published [14 articles](#) on solidarity, exploring the concept of solidarity and presenting examples and practices across Europe. SALTO ESC's first podcast on solidarity is coming soon!

In May 2022 a residential conference *Europe Talks Solidarity* in Finland is planned.