

Newsletter

Winter 2015

What is the EPLM?

The European Platform for Learning Mobility in the youth field 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 has a mission

To engage in the improvement, knowledge, visibility and recognition of learning mobility in the youth field.



What have the EPLM been doing this year?

Bringing together practitioners, researchers and policymakers, in 2015 the EPLM has had two Steering Group meetings with representatives from European networks, organisations and institutions, all with a focus on learning mobility in the youth field; it's second international conference looking at inclusion and Learning Mobility: a researcher's' meeting; an editorial board and editorial meeting for a new Youth Knowledge Book, and has also shared progress between European networks, programmes, organisations and institutions, all with a vested interest in Learning Mobility.

Read more about some of the EPLM's achievements during 2015 on the next pages....

How to find more information about EPLM?

Click [here](#) for the website of the EU-CoE youth partnership. The person in charge of the EPLM in the EU-CoE youth partnership is Davide Capecchi. Feel free to contact him on davide.capecchi@partnership-eu.coe.int

Istanbul Conference

7-9 October 2015



Watch videos and
find resources [here](#)

*Evidence, Experience,
Discourse...
Towards Opportunities for All!!*

Mobility for Inclusion - or is Mobility Inclusive?

This was the second EPLM conference, bringing together 102 experts representing researchers, practitioners, volunteers, policy makers, institutions and organisations in the youth field working on the topic of learning mobility, as well as representatives of the corporate sector, the European Commission, the European Youth Press, the Orange Magazine and the Coyote Editorial team.

The focus of the exchanges was about opportunities for all, or to put in another way, inclusion of those with fewer opportunities in learning mobility projects. It was about mobility as a tool for inclusion, and to consider to which extent are the mobility schemes inclusive.

Main findings

Every day on the conference the Practice-Policy-Research triangle was emphasised - its power, potential and possibilities.

The link to include young people in EPLM activities was encouraged at the conference.

And what about the quality of learning mobility projects through all the phases - preparation/implementation/follow-up - and the importance of supporting the (extra) needs of young people to develop at each of those stages? Expertise and knowledge of each of the three sectors can work closer together to bring added value for both the supported process, and for the learning development of the young person.



Many practical suggestions and questions were raised and the EPLM Steering Group will be prioritising them for the next steps.

So what were people discussing at the Istanbul Conference?



How to make learning mobility more inclusive? How to ensure a better use of support tools and mechanisms for recognition? What works for motivation of learning mobility? Who to motivate? How to motivate? How to reach young people for information and guidance? Quality in learning mobility - is the outcome fit for purpose? Do we need reinforced and specifically adjusted support systems?

Participants from a diversity of countries, experiences, backgrounds and sectors shared perspectives and many ideas were exchanged. Suggestions were proposed for how the sectors, and EPLM, can move forward and make instrumental changes for young people with fewer opportunities - all in the context of learning mobility. The report of the 2015 Bi-Annual conference will be soon available on the [EPLM web pages](#).

Researchers' Seminar

The creation of the EPLM has provided opportunity for researchers from a diversity of disciplines to meet, share and create connections. Hopefully the sharing of practice and links between researchers will contribute to the increase in quality of learning mobility projects.

A meeting of researchers was held in October 2015, to provide space for peer exchange on current developments and their own research priorities and interests, related to the Inclusion in learning mobility. They started discussions about: the future second Knowledge Book proposed by the EU-CoE youth partnership, for which they are looking for contributions from research, practice and policy; the analytical paper on learning mobility and social inclusion (using discourses of mobility as a signposting system), as well as on suggestions for further steps for future conferences.



Coyote

A magazine about important issues in and around youth work in Europe and beyond. Published by the EU-CoE youth partnership once or twice a year, it is addressed to practitioners, leaders of youth organisations, researchers and policy makers. Articles come from all of those target groups and the magazine is enriched occasionally by outside voices too.

An edition of Coyote is due by the beginning of 2016 on the 2nd European Youth Work Convention, and another in Spring 2016 on the EPLM Istanbul Conference. You will be able to download them from the [Coyote pages](#) on the youth partnership website.



Knowledge Books

Learning Mobility and Non-Formal Learning

This is the first Knowledge Book that has come out of the cooperation between actors of the Platform. It was published in 2013 by the EU-CoE youth partnership. It has texts of an academic, scientific, political and practical nature for all stakeholders in the youth field - youth leaders and youth workers, policy makers, researchers and so on. It should contribute to dialogue and cooperation between relevant players and to discussion on the further development and purpose of youth mobility schemes and their outcomes for young people.

Learning Mobility and Social Inclusion - Theory, Policy, Practise

This will be the second Youth Knowledge Book on learning mobility, planned to be published in 2016 by the EU-CoE youth partnership. It will be a concrete output from the triangular format of the EPLM, with contributions from researchers, practitioners and policy-makers, and will look at how disadvantaged groups have benefited up until now from taking part in learning mobility, and how to be open and involve more in the future.

If you have any enquiries concerning the new Youth Knowledge book, then you can contact: maurice.devlin@nuim.ie.

A sample of developments in Policy, Practice and Research for Learning Mobility

Inclusion and Diversity Strategy

As part of the Erasmus+ Youth in Action Programme, the Inclusion and Diversity Strategy in the field of Youth was launched by the European Commission together with the Inclusion and Diversity SALTO-YOUTH Resource Centres. The strategy's aim is to achieve even greater impact in targeting young people with fewer opportunities and to ensure that Erasmus+ responds positively to diversity in the field of Youth.

Recommendation of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe - January 2015

This Recommendation extends social rights to all young people - particularly those coming from vulnerable neighbourhoods. It focuses on education and training, employment and occupation, health, housing, information and counselling, sports, leisure and culture. The policies should promote participation of these young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods in all matters related to the planning and management of their living environment. The role of non-formal education and mobility programmes are specifically mentioned.

Learning mobility yes, but Quality?

A chance to discuss the instruments and policies for quality learning mobility in European Programmes, in particular the

European Charter for Quality Mobility (2006) was offered during a workshop session this month, as part of the Life Long Learning week (30 Nov – 4 Dec 2015). Participants discussed what support is still needed to ensure quality mobility.

European Commission's Youth Report - September 2015

This presents a picture of the situation of young people in Europe and how policymakers have addressed it in the period 2013-2015. It details the need to counter risks of exclusion, marginalisation or violent radicalisation and calls for giving priority to integration in society, with the ultimate purpose of allowing all young people to become active and engaged members in their community. This requires more systematic cooperation across policies and actors and the reinforcement of links with sports and education in order to increase social inclusion and increase youth competences and employability.

Half a Million milestone!

The 500,000th [Youthpass](#) has been generated! Youthpass is a recognition tool for non-formal and informal learning in youth work. It helps people describe what they have done and show what they have learned after taking part in Erasmus+ Youth projects. 2015 has been a record year with nearly 110,000 certificates issued so far. Watch out for the celebrations when we reach 1 million!

Do International inclusion projects generate more inclusiveness?

European research collated by SALTO Inclusion Resource Centre shows that participants in international mobility projects report a clear positive impact of their participation on their competences, their behaviour and their values. But they also found out that such projects that specifically address inclusion themes have a beneficial effect on participants' values, learning and commitment regarding inclusion – and even on their organisation.

2016 – 20 years of EVS

Many events, seminars and festivities will be taking place next year to celebrate the 20th year of European Voluntary Service. Check with your National Agency of Erasmus+ Youth in Action if there is something going on near you....

Study Handbook on youth work quality systems and frameworks in the EU - due end of 2016

The aim of this study is to examine youth work quality systems in EU Member States and explore how common indicators or frameworks may be developed. The outcome is hoped to be a user-friendly and easy-to-read handbook that gives guidance and support on basic quality principles and on the design and implementation of quality approaches. It should be relevant to a wide range of youth work activities at different levels with regard to the governance and practical implementation.

Analytical Paper: Learning Mobility and Social Inclusion

This paper, presented by David Cairns from the Centre for Research and Studies in Sociology, ISCTE-University Institute of Lisbon, assesses present research and identifies priorities for future development, to support the understanding of how social inclusion can be addressed through learning mobility.

Through case studies, the paper argues the value of programmes that constituted part of the Youth in Action initiative, and that the personal and professional profiles of participants can be enhanced through learning mobility, with the greatest gains in competencies among those with fewer opportunities.

5.5 million European Youth Cards in 39 European Countries foreseen for 2016!

The Partnership between the European Youth Card Association and the Council of Europe through their Partial Agreement has evolved not only on cross-border mobility but the programme for the last two years has been related to youth mobility as social navigation. 3 new countries have joined this year – Turkey, UK and France – and a study was conducted on youth mobility policies and practices.

The next EPLM newsletter is due out in the summer of 2016!