

Youth Partnership

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



Concept note

Mapping Educational Paths for Youth Workers and Building a Youth Work Background Information Template

Focus, scope and goals

Under Objectives 1.3. *European Knowledge Centre on Youth Policy* and 2.1. *Knowing Youth Work in Europe* of the 2017 Work Programme, the EU-CoE youth partnership proposes to develop better knowledge on youth work, to enlarge the youth work section on the European Knowledge Centre on Youth Policy and to continue to upload relevant research to the virtual library. In 2017, the EU-CoE youth partnership will focus on two specific objectives:

1. Carrying out a mapping of educational paths for youth workers in Europe

The mapping will contribute to a better understanding and sharing information on the ways in which youth workers are educated and trained and the implications for the youth work quality, on the one hand, and to identifying examples and trends, if sufficient data allows such analysis, with regards to employment or volunteering and the social benefits youth workers bring. An expert group will outline a more detailed scope of the mapping in accordance with the expectations of the partner institutions. Some elements of the future mapping include:

- i. competences the youth workers are expected to have,
- ii. educational offers addressed to youth workers in the framework of vocational or tertiary education,
- iii. non-formal educational paths available for youth leaders and youth workers and their status,
- iv. career paths/work opportunities open to youth workers depending on their educational achievements.

2. Collecting the knowledge on youth work, contributing to the Europe Goes Local strategic partnership project

The selected researchers will also develop a template for collecting relevant national and local data on youth work, to be completed by EKCYP correspondents. The templates will also include information required for the Europe Goes Local Erasmus + Strategic Partnership project, focusing on municipal youth work. The EU-CoE youth partnership contributes with relevant research to this project and so far five broad areas have been identified: (1) developing the quality of youth work policy and practice; (2) reaching out to marginalised groups; (3) integrating European projects in everyday municipal youth work; (4) managing municipal youth work; and (5) finding an adequate and constructive role and position in cross-sectorial cooperation. These themes will be fine-tuned after the conference of 29 May-2 June. The results of both the national and local data collection and their analysis will be made available online in the EKCYP and shared with the "Europe Goes Local" strategic partnership.

Process and actors involved, and coordination with other initiatives

At their 2016 annual meeting the correspondents of the EKCYP have agreed to focus on gathering knowledge on youth work in Europe. They will hence be invited to contribute to both above mentioned objectives by responding to a detailed questionnaire.

The EU-CoE youth partnership will select up to four researchers with relevant background and experience through an open call and task them to carry out the following work related to the two specific objectives:

- Carry out the literature review on educational paths available for youth workers
- Draft a template questionnaire for the EKCYP correspondents, integrating Europe Goes Local themes
- Analyse the data collected through the questionnaires and complete it with further targeted inquiry, as necessary and feasible
- Draft a report concluding the findings, including an executive summary and key findings
- Develop a way of presenting online the EKCYP country info on youth work.

As stipulated in the 2017 EU-CoE youth partnership work plan, the work of the selected researchers will be guided and supported by an expert group, including representatives of the partner institutions, of Europe Goes Local project, SALTO Training and Cooperation, Council of Europe youth sector statutory bodies and experts involved in the drafting of the Recommendation on youth work.

The expert group will be convened at the beginning of the process to design the frame of the research. Expert group members will be available for the researchers throughout the knowledge gathering and analysis process. If relevant, the group will be convened to a second meeting to fine-tune the outcomes. The draft Recommendation on youth work

along with any prior relevant research on the topic will serve as the basis for the group, which will advise on the focus, scope, stakeholders and actors to reach out to.

In the process of drafting, the EU-CoE youth partnership will communicate with representatives of the other initiatives (mapping on regional and local youth work by Europe goes local project and the European Training Strategy coordinated by Salto Training and Cooperation), to ensure complementarity and benefit for the whole youth sector in Europe.

Timeframe of actions planned and expected outcomes

April	Launch of the call Selection of researchers
May	Meeting of the expert group to define the scope of the research and guide the mapping process Draft outline of the research (to be proposed by the researchers) and template questionnaire on youth work for EKCYP
May-August	Integrate areas identified in the Europe Goes Local project in the questionnaire and launch collection of information; draft the research report
September	Present the preliminary findings in the annual EKCYP-PEYR meeting and integrate feedback
September-October	Integrate feedback from the expert group and refine the outcomes of the research – either at the second meeting or online
October	Draft report submitted for proofreading and to partners institutions for feedback
December	Publishing the results

Applications:

Four experts will be selected to carry out the research under the guidance of the youth partnership and the expert group. Experts are expected to be available to carry out the research, based on the guidance of the expert group and deliver a first draft by **10 September**. One of the experts will present the draft at the joint EKCYP-PEYR annual meeting (20-22 September); the changes stemming from discussions therein are to be integrated into a final document by 30 October 2017. Experts should foresee necessary editing work based on the Council of Europe style guide.

For questions and additional information requests please write to tanya.basarab@partnership-eu.coe.int, including Mapping Education of Youth Workers in the email subject line.