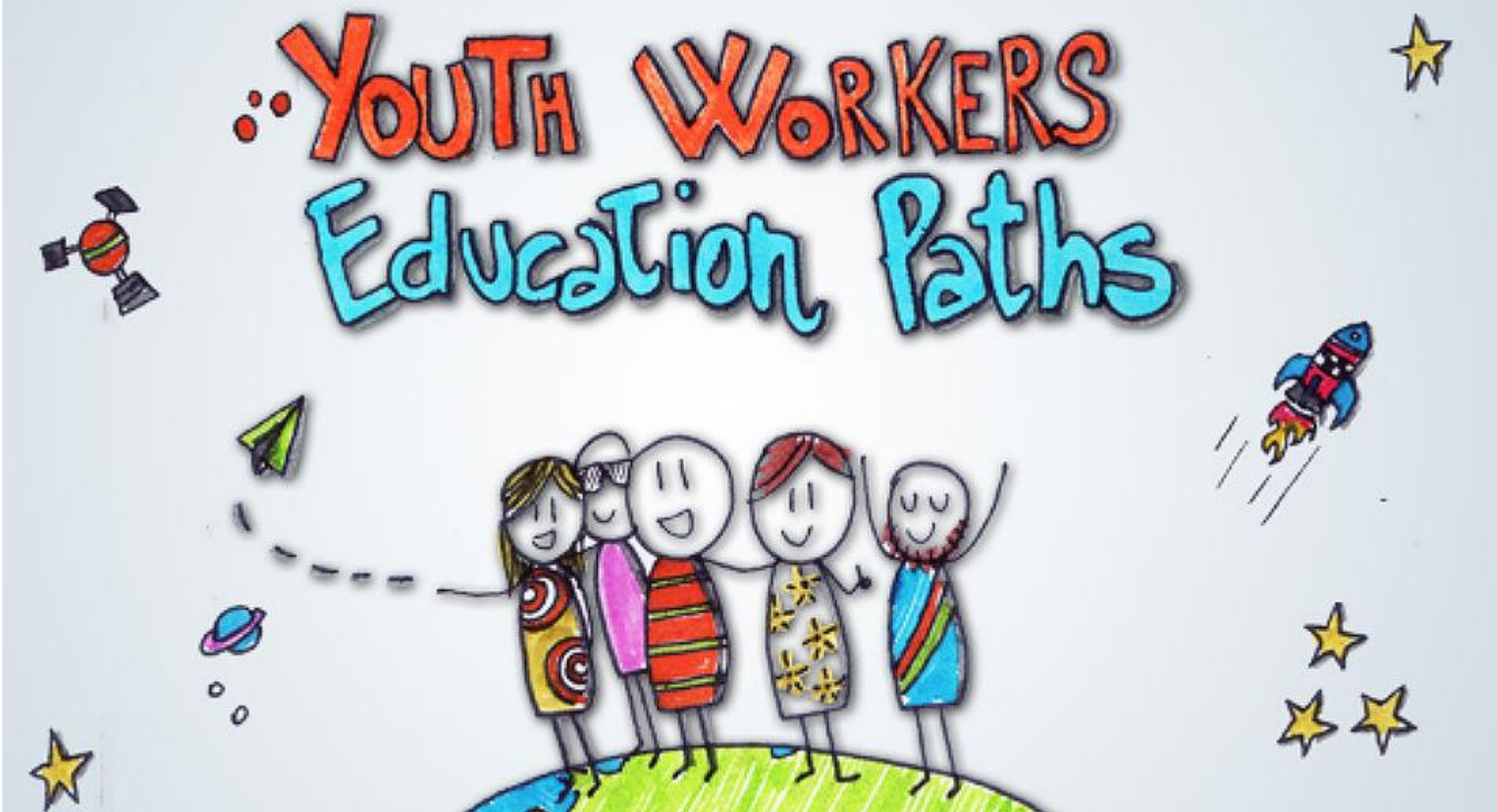


# Mapping Educational Paths of Youth Workers and Gathering Knowledge on Youth Work

EKCYP Meeting 2017  
Budapest

Madalena Sousa, Vesselina Valcheva, David Cairns,  
James O'Donovan

# YOUTH WORKERS Education Paths



## *Background to the mapping exercise*

- Aim of the research to contribute towards a better understanding of Youth Work across Europe through sharing information about education, training and employment paths.
- Also want to assess implications for youth work quality and anticipate the social benefits youth workers bring relative to this situation.
- Relevant to policy objectives 1.3. European Knowledge Centre on Youth Policy & 2.1. Knowing Youth Work in Europe of the 2017 Work Programme, and *Europe Goes Local* strategic partnership.

# *Aspects of Youth Work to be identified*



- The range of competences youth workers are expected to have.
- Educational/Training offers for youth workers at vocational and tertiary levels.
- Non-formal educational paths for youth leaders and youth workers.
- Career paths/Employment opportunities open to youth workers depending on their skills and educational achievements.

## *Work completed to date*

- Formation of expert group and meeting with stakeholders.
- Exploration of available literature.
- Preparation and distribution of questionnaire.
- Analysis of responses.
- Presentation of preliminary findings at EKCYP Meeting in Budapest.



## *Reflections from literature review*

- Quantity of published information varies according to national context; good examples of documenting practice include reports from Estonia and The Netherlands.
- Some research and statistics may only be available in national languages or not made public.
- In general, we are missing a comprehensive assessment of the education and work paths open to youth workers on a country-by-country basis and at different career stages.
- Possible reasons: lack of time to document practice or lack of research capacity to collect data.

## *Number of questionnaires received*

- To date, a total of 37 completed questionnaires have been received.
- Thank you for your contributions!
- Still missing input from countries including Spain, Denmark, Lithuania, Turkey, Russian Federation, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria and Iceland.
- Further contributions still welcome but please hurry.

# *Preliminary benchmarking*

- 16 questionnaires returned to end August - Austria, Belarus, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Georgia, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia and Sweden.
- 10 countries have a national policy framework or strategy for Youth & 10 legislative frameworks; seven have both.
- 10 countries have a legislative framework for Youth, with a focus in some cases on social care and welfare. Only Finland, Ireland and Malta appear to have legislation specifically on youth work.
- The legislative framework in some countries appears to be relatively recent (formulated in last ten years) that may be indicative of a state of development, transition or innovation.



- Only Malta appears to fulfill all requirements of Youth Work as a regulated profession but Youth Work in The Netherlands, France, Finland, Ireland and Czech Republic is professionalised to an extent.
- Finland, Ireland and Malta have degree level courses in youth work, while Latvia has two postgraduate degree courses, but all countries appear to offer non-formal education and training.
- Austria, Czech Republic and Ireland have quality/competence frameworks in place at national level; in Sweden, The Netherlands and Finland, frameworks are in the process of being developed at state, regional or municipal level.
- Austria, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Ireland, Malta, The Netherlands and Sweden appear to have viable employment/career paths for youth workers. In most other countries, opportunities are sparse to non-existent & jobs tend to be low paid and insecure.

## *Examples of Youth Work definitions*

- Serbia – “Youth work shall mean such youth activities **organised by and for young people**, based on **non-formal education**, carried out in young people’s free time and undertaken with the aim of improving the conditions for **personal and social development** of young people, in accordance with their needs and abilities, in which **young people voluntarily participate.**”
- Ireland – “A **planned programme of education** designed for the purpose of aiding and enhancing the **personal and social development** of young people through their **voluntary involvement**, and which is complementary to their formal, academic or vocational education and training and **provided primarily by voluntary youth work organisations.**”

## *Different forms of recognition*

- Germany - Juleica (Jugendleiter/-in Card) card for youth leaders.
- Armenia – at national level, official documents regulating youth work.
- Austria - aufZAQ certification of training courses for people active in youth work.
- Wales (UK) - youth work has nationally recognised qualifications framework, with parity with those used in teaching and social work.

# *Main competences*

- Serbia - community youth work & **adolescent development**, trainers skills, leadership in youth work & **conflict transformation**, project management, practical placement in **community youth work** and respecting the ethical code and **promoting values of youth work**.
- Germany - communication skills, leadership, empathy, coaching, **organisational skills** and **intercultural skills**.
- Albania - **organisational skills**, leadership, communication, working in a team, adaptability, time management, **intercultural skills** and **entrepreneurial skills**.

## *Some challenges in Youth Work*

- Need a funding system that helps employers better qualify their workers (FR).
- Better working conditions, salaries, status and recognition of work (DE).
- Absence of an agreement among Federal Regions on minimum standards for employing youth workers (AT).
- Need for more focus on preventative measures and better engagement with young people in local areas(NL) & to make Youth Work evidence-based (NL).
- A clear professional pathway needs to be defined at national and regional levels (IT).

# *Initial reflexions on the questionnaires*

- Quality Assurance at national levels reliant on European Policy benchmarks.
- Difficulty of connecting Youth Work with national frameworks.
- Question of funding prominent: for instance, in some countries main source of funding appear to be European programmes, especially Erasmus+.
- Need to make links between education/training pathways and labour market.
- Range of job opportunities for Youth Workers appears limited in quantity and quality.

## *Further actions*

- Integration of feedback from EKCYP-PEYR at this meeting and including ideas for the structure of the report.
- Preparation of draft report in October 2017.
- More input from experts in November 2017.
- Publishing of results in December 2017.