

Youth Partnership

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



EU-CoE youth partnership Pool of European Youth Researchers

Annual Meeting 2018 Report

Chisinau, Moldova, 18-19 October 2016

8th Annual Meeting of PEYR – TEAM programme	
17 September 2018 17:00 – 18:00	PEYR Core Support Group meeting Arrival of PEYR
18 September 2018 9:00 – 10:45	Opening of the meeting by the EU-CoE youth partnership team. Tour De Table: Name And Country Developments with regard to youth research within the two partner institutions and in the youth partnership’s programme: upcoming events, publications, conferences. What has happened or is happening in PEYR? Calls, contributions, activities; Content, material, outcomes. How can PEYR members contribute and be involved in different ongoing and forthcoming processes?
10:45 – 11:15	Break
11:15 – 13:00	Individual contributions: PEYR members to present their areas of interest and research: time distributed equally. Presentation of the results of the survey undergone beforehand on research projects, recent publications and upcoming projects and events, topics, methodologies, mapping of resources and networks.
13:00 – 14:30	Lunch
14:30 – 16:00	First round of thematic clusters: Monitoring and evaluation of youth policy Social Inclusion Second round of thematic clusters: Youth work Citizenship, participation and values and the role of youth work and youth policy in combating violent radicalization and extremism
16:00 – 16:30	Break
16:30 – 18:00	Cluster closing and feedback (focus on work plans). What is going on in youth research? Topics, methodologies. Open Microphone: - Mapping of resources and networks that can be accessed by PEYR members, to broaden the scope and the perspectives on youth research. - Online journal on youth research and policy / Perspectives on Youth. Communication tools available to PEYR. Ideas for 2019 work plan of the EU-CoE youth partnership. Information and preparation on the joint meeting. Closing and evaluation.

Participants

Pool of European Youth Researchers

1	Maria Cristina	Bacalso
2	Ondřej	Bárta
3	Nuala	Connolly
4	Aliona	Cristei
5	Irina	Drexler
6	Marina	Galstyan
7	Andreas	Heinen
8	Ewa	Krzaklewska
9	Sofia	Laine
10	Stefanos	Mastrotheodoros
11	Dan	Moxon
12	Guro	Ødegård
13	Lana	Pasic
14	Sladjana	Petkovic
15	Gary	Pollock
16	Sandra	Roe
17	Ozgehan	Senyuva
18	Dragan	Stanojevic
19	Marti	Taru
20	Laden	Yurttagüler Akkuş
21	Manfred	Zentner

EU-CoE youth partnership

1. Tanya Basarab
2. Mojca Kodela-Lesemann
3. Davide Capecchi

Apologies received from

Sanna	Aaltonen
David	Cairns
Adina Marina	Calafateanu
Tahir	Faradov
Alena	Ignatovitch
Maurizio	Merico
Magda	Nico
Lars	Norqvist
Maria-Carmen	Pantea
Dunja	Potocnik

The profiles of PEYR members can be found [here](#)

Summary of proceedings

The Pool of European Youth Researchers (PEYR) met for their annual meeting at the Bristol hotel in Chisinau, Moldova on 18-19 October 2018. While the day 18 September was dedicated to the meeting of PEYR exclusively, the day 19 September was a joint meeting of PEYR and the national correspondents of the European Knowledge Centre on Youth Policy (EKCYP).

On 18 September, the meeting was chaired by Davide Capecchi, member of the team of the partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the field of youth (YP). He brought to the group the greetings of Marta Medlinska, YP's coordinator, who could not attend the meeting due to illness. He thanked upfront the members of the Core Support Group, i.e. Ozgehan Senyuva, David Cairns, Sladjana Petkovic, Alena Ignatovich for their help in shaping the Annual Meeting; Ozgehan and Dragan Stanojevic for their support respectively as facilitator and rapporteur of the meeting. He also thanked all PEYR members who have submitted their content to a survey that Ozgehan prepared and circulated. The results of this survey, documenting PEYR's areas of research, recent and upcoming publications and future plans and avenues of youth research, elaborated by Ozgehan, are added to this report as annex.

This report refers to this day 18 September only. A separate report is available for the day 19 September (joint PEYR-EKCYP meeting).

During the introductory round, Davide reported on the work done by the YP in the period between the two meetings. The most notable development is that reputation of PEYR, as a group coordinated by the YP, had grown in the course of the past year, and reliability and professionalism of PEYR members contributed greatly to the increasing attention to a more solid, wide-spread knowledge-based approach to youth policy and practice. Such a development was made possible by some good-practice cases, such as the involvement of PEYR members in the 6th cycle of the Structured Dialogue between the EU and young people, in some Europe-wide projects such as 'Europe Goes Local', and the Mapping of Educational Paths of Youth Workers, to name just a few.

The involvement of members of PEYR in different processes within the partner institutions had become natural, Davide continued, both at level of statutory bodies and institutional processes (Steering Committee on Youth of the Council of Europe; EU Council Presidencies from the EU side) as well as at the level of punctual, content-oriented processes (Council of Europe high-level task force on the implementation of the recommendation on youth work and on Agenda 2030, and consultative meeting on shrinking spaced for civil society; working groups initiated by the European Commission). Likewise, an increasing number of actors within the youth field, including the European Youth Forum, National Agencies, RAY Network etc., consistently approached the YP for contacting researchers of PEYR to involve them in their work.

Davide also updated the Pool on the current work and future strategies of the two partner institutions, both recognising the importance, role and relevance of a knowledge-based approach to their developments.

The role played by the YP has been recognised more and more as the main broker of a knowledge-based approach for youth policy and youth work development in Europe. PEYR members are regularly invited to meetings and events, to present and provide research and policy inputs.

When it comes to **the research and policy activities of PEYR members in the last year**, particularly within the work of the YP and the two partner institutions, the following activities were mentioned:

1. the YP published a study on mapping of educational paths of youth workers, in which many PEYR members contributed;
2. A Youth Knowledge Book on refugees and the role of youth work will be published in 2019.
3. The role of youth policy in fighting against fake news. First draft will be ready for the October meeting.
4. It has been agreed that PEYR members will participate more actively in working groups that prepare relevant documents and policy measures, not only in decision-making processes.
5. 6th Cycle of Structured Dialogue. Two PEYR members, Dan Moxon and Ondra Barta provided methodological background for the national working groups, they participated in the shaping of the youth goals, and they insisted that the results of their work are based on the gathered data, as well as on the importance of quality research. Quality research results were a key part of the process with 28000 responses of questionnaires and more than 30 national results. There are discussions on that the dataset can be open sourced, after primary analysis of the researchers and organisations involved, and by the YP and will be stored by the YP.
6. Improving the use of the Youthpass. The main challenge is how to integrate the Youthpass for use of youth workers.
7. Attendance on a Council of Europe's preparatory meeting dealing with shrinking space for civic society. Questions addressed: how the reduction of space affects the activity of young people, and especially the issue of extremism, radicalism.
8. Attendance of the European Citizen Education seminar.
9. Development of the MOOC on youth policy. All PEYR members are welcome to participate, give comments and promote the course.
10. Expert group for mapping educational paths of youth workers and gathering knowledge on youth work. Writing a document that should provide a framework for national states.
11. Mapping educational paths of youth workers and gathering knowledge on youth work. The activities include focus groups with local participants as a base for building a questionnaire and research in several countries. The book about ethics of youth work is to be published.
12. Attendance of Symposium on social inclusion and digitalisation – which had as a main topic the interesection of social inclusion and digitalisation.
13. Seminar of youth work in SEE will take place in Ljubljana on 13-15 November. This meeting should be a milestone in ensuring the quality of youth work in the region.
14. Preparing the book History of youth work for the workshop on the history on international youth work organisations, to take place in Ljubljana on 2-3 October.

15. EPLM experts meeting, May 2018 in Lille. The PEYR representative in the Steering Group of the EPLM with several researchers of PEYR organised workshops to show the importance of research for youth mobility in the youth field. Series of indicators for monitoring the quality of the learning mobility project were presented; PEYR members participated in the drafting.

When it comes to the **areas of research of PEYR members**, the following topics were identified:

- Youth and children participation in decision making.
- EU and national structured dialogue on national level.
- Project “Age matters” – minimal age legislation and impact on young people lives and service access. Minimal age for different normatives and laws.
- UNICEF – participation guidelines for young people, and working on new modules and indicators on MICS.
- Project for Amnesty international – Participatory research methods for young people.
- Migration topics: young refugees and migrants group for Austria Government and EU.
- Girls in the public space on the local level.
- Youth cultures importance for the local development and the feeling of belonging on the local level.
- Erasmus + project - How the youth work can help in preventing radicalisation and violence
- Migration and integration of children in schools.
- Child exploitation in the digital sphere. Cybercrime and young people on CoE.
- Hate speech and public discourse.
- Radicalisation of young people.
- Youth participation and local governance.
- Youth online participation and governance.
- Cohort survey on EU level. Research on children and youth in longitudinal perspective. High quality data will be provided.
- Populism and civic engagement – H2020 project.
- Migration of children across EU - H2020 project.
- Position of children and youth in Beirut.
- Sustainability of youth work for the long term. Micro sociology perspective on youth work.
- Educational mobility across EU with focus on Erasmus programs. How mobility change life trajectories of young people.
- Sustainability of youth work. List of the indicators. Academic mobility.
- Research of relation between formal, non-formal and Informal education.
- Action research of participation of young people. Monitoring the impact of participation on decision making on local level. Developing a model of participation from a dialogue perspective.
- Subjective perspective of young people wellbeing.

- European Social Survey, rotation module – timing of life.
- Regional project: research of young people in SEE.
- Development of the design for a panel study of young people in Serbia.
- Evaluation of youth participation.
- Life course of young people.
- Young people and the labor market.
- Domestic violence and young people.
- Youth inequality in Norway – qualitative data based research.
- Political and civic participation in Norway.
- Citizenship education, participatory methods. Autonomy of young people.
- Young refugees in Europe.
- Citizenship education in Turkey. Shrinking space for civil society.
- Participatory methods from the practice perspective.
- Autonomy of young people and their reaction on shrinking the space for civil society.
- Family transitions – transitions to parenthood.
- European youth forum project – participation mechanisms and general opportunities for young people.
- SALTO project – the impact of the Berlin process for the SEE countries.
- Youth participation on the local level in Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- Post-conflict and reconciliation issues, and the role of youth.
- Monitoring and evaluation of youth policy; learning mobility in the youth field.
- Youth work and learning mobility.
- Political polarisation, social distance, moral panics, securisation.
- UN supporting the adolescence.
- Youth and children policy and youth research in Armenia. UNDP project – youth work and youth research in Armenia.
- Youth employment, youth work, youth entrepreneurship.
- Disadvantages of young people in the labor market.
- Europe goes local project. Youth work and social work.
- Football fun behavior – youth cultures.
- Impact of learning mobility on young people.
- Young refugees in Finland and EU.
- Cohort research in Finland.
- Adolescence development, baby brain research, immigrant adolescence.
- Longitudinal studies on children and parents in Ireland. Child support services in Ireland.
- EU Structured dialogue, RAY network, action research of the trainings.

Feedback from the thematic clusters

MONITORING and EVALUATION

During the WG session several important topics are discussed: The general impression is that not much progress has been made in this area of activity, in the past few years. There is no shared understanding of the basic terminology. It is not even known precisely who the young persons are by age. The group proposed establishing a **youth research methodological field, with clear** terminology for youth research, practice, and policy. A shared understanding of the main concepts based on the existing national set of indicators is one of the main tasks (defining basic concepts such as “knowledge-based”, “youth work”, “cross-sectoral approach”). This process could begin with a series of research and practitioners meetings, e.g. 1st European youth research and policy convention. That could also be an opportunity to balance methodological approaches by creating methodological guidelines, in order to enable handling of complexity and supporting mainstreaming of the youth policy/policies on national levels. It is also necessary to give more importance to qualitative methods - increasing methodology on qualitative indicators.

The importance of better connectivity has been emphasised. Monitoring and evaluation of youth policy and, as a good example, a good practice in Armenia was mentioned. The experiences of other agencies (e.g. UN agencies) should be taken into account when establishing standards of the quality of the evaluation.

The cluster proposed several areas of contribution of PEYR:

1. Literature review as a step No. 1: what is there in native languages? Policies that affect young people vs youth policies. Vs youth issues addressed by various national states.
2. Guidelines for cross-cutting policies' evaluation methodologies - to handle complexity and to support mainstreaming of youth policies on national levels.
3. Choosing level (EU, CoE, National states should be clear on theoretical conceptualisation) what is cross-sectoral? What is youth work? etc.
4. Establishing youth research methodological bases:
 - a) UN established various youth indexes - to evaluate also the indicators and include qualitative methodologies,
 - b) To use methodology to “showcase” and set good practice standards, and to focus on a particular issue (go in-depth).

SOCIAL INCLUSION

The concepts *social inclusion* and *social exclusion* are primarily developed within the policy field. In academia, different alternative concepts are developed and are still in use. These concepts are relatively wide-ranging and involve very different phenomena and groups. The sector needs better knowledge of intersectionality, patterns of inequality amongst different social-economic groups, and poverty and its relationship to inclusion / exclusion.

It has been noted that research and policy papers are formed around several topics that are recognised as crucial. Most research are focused on economy, labor market, transition from education to work of young people, and usually perceive young people in the context of labor market inclusion / exclusion through transition to adulthood. Although the results show that since the beginning of the economic crisis this field has been a very important factor of social inclusion, it is not the only field that carries risks of social exclusion. Addressing only one aspect of inclusion is not comprehensive enough. It is necessary to stress that research and practice should also address other important social aspects of inclusion of young people.

An intersectional approach is needed since that is the only way to recognise different levels of exclusion based on different criteria: gender, disabled, sexual orientation, etc. When approaching a vulnerable group, all forms of discretion and exclusion need to be identified, but programmes often focus only on one area - for example, the access to education or the labor market. Intersectionality is not present in youth research as it is in other research areas. Besides, a cross government approach is needed in many countries. Collaboration between different ministries and sectors is a precondition for an adequate approach to this topic. Unfortunately, not all countries have the same standard and approach. Some focus only and exclusively on youth work.

Many of the knowledge sources (tools, guides, discussion) about inclusion within the youth sector focus on some other topic and inclusion (e.g. "digitalisation as a way to address inclusion", "inclusion and young migrants"), and, as a result, there are limited knowledge sources accessible to practice that address the concept of inclusion directly and in relation to young people. Although the social inclusion / exclusion topics are present, we lack theoretical, conceptual and research work. That is precisely why one of the goals and future tasks of PEYR could be to bring together the knowledge base and the work on youth social exclusion, too and define concepts more specifically for practitioners. Concrete contribution of PEYR may include a knowledge book on young people inclusion / exclusion, publication of several papers on this topic, development of practitioner focused resources (e.g. mooc, training etc).

CITIZENSHIP, PARTICIPATION and VALUES and the role of YOUTH WORK and YOUTH POLICY in COMBATING VIOLENT RADICALIZATION and EXTREMISM

The discussion of the cluster members can be divided into two parts / analytical levels: **1. conceptual, and 2. practical.**

The conceptual part included reflections on the definition and the scope of the concepts of citizenship and participation. The main question was how these concepts are defined regarding young people today. The participants agreed that we are witnessing “shrinking space” for civil society, and they tried to answer how this process is affecting young people and their participation, citizenship education and volunteering. The concept of securitisation along with radicalisation, extremism and violent extremism were introduced. One of the important arenas where these phenomena are present is social media, and that is the reason why special attention should be paid to social media and different ways of online participation, social inclusion and extremism among youth. Along with this topic, a discussion on “participation and *space*” emerged, raising some questions: How young people are using space? How is space affecting participatory practices of young people? How is *space* loaded with gendered practices? The need for intersectionality in research and practice was mentioned as significant one, especially regarding gender, participation of young people, and extremism. This approach is very important when dealing with young people coming from various backgrounds, e.g. refugee young people. The cluster members discussed as well the perception of youth workers, teachers, parents, social workers on *radicalisation and violent extremism* and the different ways how tools and methods of youth work (such as sports, arts) have an impact on the participation, social inclusion, extremism, gender relations. The importance of the “action research” as a method in research on young people was discussed, as well as their “voice in the research” and “voice in policy making processes”.

The practical part included several suggestions about the contribution of PEYR members:

- A discussion/paper/edition on “how shrinking civil society affects the participation practices of young people?”
- An edition on the concepts of radicalisation, extremism, violent extremism and young people. That content would include changes in the concepts, the use of the concepts in policy documents regarding the young people, and the gender perspective in the policy documents regarding radicalization, extremism, violent extremism.
- A study on the perception of youth workers, teachers, trainers and parents regarding the discussion on radicalisation/extremism and young people.
- A study on “refugees and citizens – young people: A study on how, where and when they interact”.
- Knowledge book: bring together the knowledge base, define the concepts more precisely for practitioners, produce some sort of resource of evidence base more closely connected to academic thinking and built on research.
- Creating guidelines for cross-cutting policy evaluation research (creating methodological guidelines in order to enable handling of complexity and supporting

mainstreaming of the youth policy/policies on national levels; importantly to choose levels of the measurement – EU, national, regional, etc.).

The cluster members proposed establishing youth research methodological bases through a series of seminars, e.g. 1st European youth policy and research convention. On this occasion there can be set the methodological and practical standards within the field. Expertise from various research, e.g. EUROSTAT, UN, EUROSTUDENT, ESS, EVS, can be used for establishing various youth indexes, and to also evaluate the indicators and include qualitative methodologies. Outcomes of the meetings of researchers and practitioners should be: tailoring and usage of different research data and methodologies for right research / practical questions and challenges, and guidelines for cross-cutting policies evaluation methodologies, that should help to handle complexity and to support mainstreaming of youth policies on national levels.

YOUTH WORK

The cluster members discussed the value of different types of evidence, evaluation, and outcomes measurement within the field. It would be useful to develop a system of indicators relating to the work of researchers. Great effort has been made in different projects, manuals, trainings, etc. Although databases exist, it would be beneficial to have ranking of evidence of practices and programmes, compilation of different youth work practices and youth work research. It is addressed that the role of youth workers has been rapidly evolving in the last decade. That raised the question how this trend could be supported through research (innovation and research - development of youth work education testing new practices). One part of the activity should be focused on finding funds that should link research and practice. It was added that there is an emphasis on working within framework but less emphasis on reflection or pedagogic reflection. Potential map quality youth work education (curricula analysis etc.) - without leaving behind 'untrained' youth workers (avoiding overinstitutionalisation). Members also discussed the need to strengthen the cooperation between the PEYR members on EU expert groups in the field of youth.

One of the key problems is that youth work is not clearly distinguished from social work. In some cases youth work doesn't include some groups of young people leaving challenges to social workers. That proves to be the main problem on the local level. It is not clear where is the difference between youth and social work, and how they can cooperate on the same / similar tasks.

There are significant differences between countries when it comes to the development of practices and the implementation of different programs. It is not certain that there is an exchange of good practices between countries. The question remains: how much work should be done on the institutionalization of youth work. The concern was raised that too much institutionalisation could lead to more rigid formalisation of the youth work which need certain level of flexibility.

Summary of ideas for possible further work

Studies and analytical papers:

- A discussion paper or edition on “how shrinking civil society affects the participation practices of young people?”;
- An edition of the Youth Knowledge Book series on the concepts of radicalisation, extremism, violent extremism and young people;
- A study on the perception of youth workers, teachers, trainers and parents regarding the discussion on radicalisation and extremism and young people
- A study on “refugees and citizens – young people: how, where and when they interact”;
- Literature review: policies that affect young people vs youth policies vs youth issues addressed by various national governments;
- Youth knowledge book on citizenship education: bring together the knowledge base more comprehensively, defining the concept more specifically for practitioners and producing some sort of base of evidence more closely connected to academic thinking and built on research;
- Creating guidelines for cross-cutting policy evaluation research (creating methodological guidelines in order to enable handling of complexity and supporting mainstreaming of the youth policy/policies on national level; importantly to choose levels of the measurement – EU, national, regional...)
- Gender and youth: analytical paper.

Where research meets practice:

- Seminar: youth research common methodological field to be established (1st European youth policy convention?);
- Workshop – expert meeting: quantitative indicators - increasing methodology on qualitative indicators;
- Expert meeting: establishing youth research methodological bases;
- To use methodology to “showcase” and set good practice standards and to focus on a particular issue (go in-depth);
- EUROSTAT, UN, EUROSTUDENT, ESS, EVS, established various youth indexes - to also evaluate the indicators and include qualitative methodologies;
- Meeting of researchers and practitioners: Tailoring and use of different research data and methodologies for right research / practical questions and challenges;
- Guidelines for cross-cutting policies evaluation methodologies - to handle complexity and to support mainstreaming of youth policies on national levels.

General conclusions

Davide initiated then a round of feedback, and its summary follows:

- Participants renewed their commitment to provide support to the work plan of the YP and of the two partner institutions, in a more transversal and cross-cutting manner, i.e. with a thorough involvement, whenever possible, from design to evaluation of activities and processes;
- The work of PEYR can be organised in working groups, along the themes identified in the meeting and mirrored in this report, as well as around new topics that could arise in the future. Working groups can be given specific tasks, or identify priorities and initiatives on their own right, provided a budget is available. Meetings in person can also take place, alike the meeting of those researchers interested in learning mobility in the youth field;
- PEYR members involved in different processes should feel responsible for approaching the rest of PEYR ahead of their commitments and missions, to gather opinions and material from fellow PEYR members; feedback should also be provided to the group, so that PEYR as a whole is aware, informed and involved, and the processes enriched;
- Some PEYR members expressed availability in supporting the work of the YP in the development of the online journal (Perspectives on Youth 2.0): this involvement can take the form of a quality-check, peer-review, ethics committee, content creation, promotion of the material or a combination of the aforementioned. They also suggested that the two levels of quality check and content enhancement should be kept separated and are both indispensable, the latter especially imperative if the journal has ambitions to be relevant for the academic world. Participants also opined that the high potential of the tool rests in addressing one specific topic at a time from a triangular (policy, practice, research) perspective, rather than taking a purely-academic format;
- Few comments were raised on the draft work plan of the YP for 2019, in the process of being shaped and under evaluation by the partner institutions, and especially
 - o On the foreseen symposium on young people's values and their political participation, it was recommended that the YP pays attention to the intellectual and research background of the topic, paying attention to linking values to political participation, as this linkage can seem artificial and patronising;
 - o On the research on social inclusion of young people and digitalisation, it was noted that this theme, while being interesting in light of the recent developments within the partner institutions, and definitely actual, is in contradiction with the recommendation of the cluster on social inclusion, in that it specified a specific approach to this area, which is by definition limiting the scope and open approach to it.

- On future improvement of Annual Meetings:
 - o PEYR members who are asked to present their work can be informed before the meeting;
 - o A digest of content and questions arising from the involvement of PEYR members in the work of the YP or of the two partner institutions can be circulated ahead of the meeting;
 - o Working groups, as a more task-oriented evolution of clusters of youth research, can be given concrete tasks and budgets, and the work plan of the YP can be shared ahead of the meeting, also in preparation to the work of the working groups.

- There will be a partial, mid-mandate review of the composition of PEYR, addressing especially those researchers who did not, for different reasons, contribute to the work of the YP or of the two partner institutions, and who do not plan on doing so in the mid-term. These researchers will be approached individually by the YP team, asked about their intentions concerning involvement, and potential vacancies filled in with rejected applicants from the previous call, subject to the agreement of the two partner institutions;

- Participants expressed their general satisfaction with the developments within PEYR, wished to continue working along groups of interests, to be reconvened as working groups, suggested that the YP encourages the creation of pairs or groups of researchers to work on specific tasks (alike what was currently happening), evaluated positively the constitution of the Core Support Group and wished to continue with such group of peers, possibly in a renewed composition.

Davide then thanked Ozgehan for his support as co-facilitator of the meeting; the five researchers who worked in preparation of the clusters of youth research, Alena (who could not participate due to a last-minute personal matter), Dan, Laden, Nuala and Ondras. He also thanked Dragan for his note-taking, Cristina for having made the report of the previous meeting, and last but not least his colleagues present, Mojca and Tanya, for their support and those colleagues who have worked hard from Strasbourg for the success of the meeting and of PEYR in general.

He then, on behalf of Marta Medlinska, thanked all researchers of PEYR for their participation or involvement, and closed then the meeting, for which an online, anonymous report will be available together with a draft report.