

Youth Partnership

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



Expert group meeting on researching educational and career paths for youth workers

9 April 12:30 to 10 April 12:30
Council of Europe Brussels Office

Concept and Agenda

Rationale

Youth work development and recognition has evolved since the first European Youth Work Convention with significant policy initiatives at European level such as the Council of Europe Recommendation of Youth Work CM/Rec 2017(4) and the upcoming EU Youth Strategy section on empowering young people, including through a future Youth Work Agenda for quality, innovation and recognition of youth work, as well as many national initiatives defining youth work.

The EU-CoE youth partnership launched a research initiative into understanding the realities of youth worker education, training and work across Europe and the challenges of strengthening the identity of youth work in relation to other, recognised sectors working with young people. In 2017 a mapping of educational and career paths for youth workers in Europe, and its analysis, gained understanding of the formal and non-formal education offers to youth workers, validation systems in place, competency descriptors and possible career paths. In 2018 focus groups, interviews, surveys and expert discussions with youth workers further nuanced the findings and looked into the experiences of youth workers and the perspectives of their educators, employers and organisers.

In addition, some thematic analytical papers explored topics that were highlighted as important drivers of better support for quality youth work development (including in the areas of education and training of youth workers).

The research was carried out under the guidance and with support of an expert group involving stakeholders of the two partner institutions. The 2018 meeting of the expert group was held in an enlarged format and looked further at national systems for education, training and validation for youth workers.

All the research findings can be found here and the results of 2018 will be the focus of the convened expert group meeting: <https://pjp-eu.coe.int/en/web/youth-partnership/related-publication>

Proposal for research focus in 2019

In 2019 the focus will be on a better understanding the world of professions and vocations involved in youth work, their interaction and how they contribute to building a stronger youth work identity, recognition and better youth work offer. This knowledge will contribute to furthering the implementation of the CM Recommendation on youth work and development of the future Youth Work Agenda for quality, innovation and recognition of youth work, foreseen by the new EU Youth Strategy.

Some ideas to explore in 2019 and to further discuss in the expert group include what occupations/professions are involved in youth work and on their status, identity-building for youth work as well as the spaces where youth work takes place and the cross-sectoral cooperation that happens there (ex: youth work in schools, in other settings)...

The expert group is convened with two objectives:

1. Hear the presentation of the main findings of the six analytical papers developed in 2018 and reflect on how they can contribute to offering adapted support for youth workers in their education and practice
2. Provide guidance to the research proposals for 2019 on what stakeholders to approach, what spaces and interactions to explore and how to ensure the research supports the current European and national youth work development processes.

Agenda

9 April 2019

Morning – Arrival of participants

12:30 – 13:30 Lunch

13:30 – 14:30 Introduction to the meeting, the participants and updates from EU-CoE youth partnership on the research project

14:30 – 15:30 Learning from the perspective of youth workers

[Early career perspectives on the educational pathways of youth workers](#) by Tomi Kiilakoski

[Youth workers learning in non-formal contexts](#) by Dunja Potočnik

15:30-16:00 Break

16:00 – 17:30 Learning from the perspectives of educators, organisers and managers of youth workers

[Views of educators and youth work managers on the competences of youth workers](#) by Dunja Potočnik

[Youth workers in Europe. Associations, networks and support](#) by James O'Donovan

University curriculum for youth workers by Marko Kovacic

17:30 – 18:30 Comparison of the perspectives and ethics

[Ethical standards in youth work and how they support education and career pathways of youth workers](#)

by Sladjana Petkovic and Ondřej Bárta

Commonalities and differences among the three perspectives (policy-makers, youth workers and organisers/managers/educators of youth workers) Marti Taru

End of day 1

10 April 2019

9:00 – 10:30 Professional development of youth workers

[What do you see? A look at youth work through the prism of sociology of occupations](#) by Marti Taru

General reflection on the findings from 2018

10:30 – 11:00 Break

11:00 – 12:30 Plans for 2019 and next steps

Making use of the research results and perspectives for European level cooperation

Reflections from Antje Rothemund on the relevance to the implementation of the Youth Work Recommendation CM/Rec (2017)4

Reflections from Fabienne Metayer on the relevance to the implementation of the EU Youth Strategy and the Youth Work Agenda

Guidance for 2019 research

Suggestions of relevant resources on education and training of youth workers

Closing of the expert group meeting

Departure of Experts

14:00 – 18:00 Meeting of the researchers selected to carry out the work in 2019