

## Youth Partnership

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



### MOOC on youth work

Following on from its first MOOC on “Essentials of youth policy” and from the recent developments in youth work in Europe, the EU-CoE youth partnership has included in its work plan 2019 the development of content for a new MOOC on the essentials of youth work. This activity is part of the work strand of the EU – CoE youth partnership on “supporting youth work”, in which the EU-CoE youth partnership contributes to the European level actions aimed at strengthening youth work, thus implementing the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers Recommendation on youth work and promoting the youth work focus of the EU Youth Strategy’s section on empowering young people, including through a future Agenda for Youth Work for quality, innovation and recognition of youth work.

This document introduces the main concept of the MOOC on youth work.

#### Why a MOOC?

Massive open online courses have been offering for several years now opportunities for people to learn about a variety of themes online. A MOOC is an online course in which participation is, in principle, unlimited (*massive*) and the course is open access via the Internet (*open*). Given this format, MOOCs are useful to learning processes when one of the main objectives is to make knowledge about a topic widely accessible and available.

A MOOC on youth work could respond to some of the identified needs related to youth work:

- Need to make the meaning of youth work clearer, especially, but not exclusively, to those who are not involved in youth work practice or policy on a daily basis
- Need to learn from the diversity of youth work across Europe and from good practices
- Need to be up-to-date on current developments, for example with the work of the 2 partner institutions
- Need to bring the knowledge on youth work built by diverse stakeholders to a wider audience.

#### Elements for a MOOC on youth work

Given this state of play, a MOOC on youth work can be a useful tool to:

- Make youth work known to a wide audience and draw attention to its social value
- Provide an overview of youth work practices and policies across Europe
- Present current developments in this field, including at European level.

## ***Learning objectives***

By the end of this course, we expect learners to:

- become more familiar with the “basics” of youth work (concepts and definitions, forms, practices, approaches, objectives, actors at European and national levels)
- gain an overview of how youth work is supported (through policies and strategies, youth work research, education of youth workers, funding, etc.)
- get inspired by the diverse good practices existing in Europe on different aspects of youth work
- reflect on the future of youth work in Europe and on how to engage in youth work developments.

## ***Methodology***

This MOOC will seek to strike a balance between two methodological approaches:

- On the one hand, bringing existing knowledge closer to learners
- On the other hand, building on knowledge that learners themselves bring to the online course through dialogue and exchange.

The online course methodology will be based on learner engagement, providing opportunities for learners to gain information and reflect themselves on the realities of youth work.

The course will include texts, interviews, explanatory videos, webinars, interactive activities, forum discussions, brainstorming, etc.

## ***Potential participants***

In a MOOC, access being open, the organisers cannot control nor select their participants. However, the organisers may outline the most suitable profiles for learners and orientate the MOOC promotion towards specific target groups.

In this MOOC, the profiles of learners range across:

- Students involved in youth work studies or learners involved in non-formal education processes related to youth work
- Volunteer or paid youth workers
- Youth work managers
- Responsible persons for planning youth work at municipal level
- Youth organisations and other youth platforms
- Those involved in youth work policy making or in funding youth work
- Youth workers' education providers
- Researchers
- Other persons interested in exploring the subject.