

Perspective on Youth Work Developments

CYPRUS FACT SHEET

The 3rd European Youth Work Convention (EYWC) plays a key role in launching the implementation of the European Youth Work Agenda (EYWA) as a strategic framework for further developing and strengthening youth work practice and policies in Europe. The goal of this fact sheet is to provide basic information about the perspective on youth work developments in a specific country. All information has been gathered from national contact points, reports or country sheets and profiles available online. The purpose of this fact sheet is to stimulate discussion before, at and after the 3rd EYWC among the members of the national delegations. This information is a suggestion only and a starting point for further development by the delegation when planning actions for implementation of the EYWA.

FACTS

Youth work as a recognised occupation: NO

Legislative framework for youth work: NO

Main youth work actors: voluntary organisations

Highlights with regard to youth work development:

The youth clubs in Cyprus target young people with fewer opportunities and are mainly located in rural areas. There are clubs run by young people with disabilities for young people with disabilities, like the Youth Club for People with Hearing Disorders.

STRENGTHS & SUCCESSES	CHALLENGES
<p>The Youth Board of Cyprus (YBC), as the competent authority for youth policy and youth affairs, has established a dedicated Working Group on Youth Work (YW), consisting of Youth Board officers and representatives of umbrella youth organisations, with the mandate to work on the development of an action plan for the quality development of YW in Cyprus.</p> <p>Another strength is the national funding scheme “Youth Initiatives”, administered by YBC, with an approximate budget of 1million Euros, for youth work activities taking place at national and local level. Many youth organisations, especially the Youth Club Centres that are active at local level, are able to run youth work activities, with the support of Youth Initiatives programme.</p> <p>YBC has run several TCA activities through E+ on youth work development, including “Digi-it UP” on digital youth work.</p> <p>Cyprus benefitted from a youth policy advisory mission of the Council of Europe that focused on developing education and training of youth workers (including formal and non-formal).</p>	<p>To define youth work as a practice, within the relevant policy documents, and to develop its main functions and characteristics.</p> <p>To establish a formal recognition system for the validation of competences acquired through youth work;</p> <p>To develop the occupational standards of a youth worker, in order to establish youth work as a career.</p> <p>Lack of knowledge on what youth work is and how it contributes to the development of young people.</p> <p>Low involvement of local authorities (municipalities and communities) in delivering youth work, due to the lack of structures/staff within the municipalities that could support youth work.</p> <p>Youth work is run mainly by youth-led organisations and voluntary workers.</p>

SUPPORT NEEDED

The youth policy advisory mission of the CoE experts in April 2019 has been of great support towards the youth work development in Cyprus. Based on their recommendations, the Youth Board is currently developing a national road map for the holistic development of quality youth work. Sharing experience, knowledge and expertise with countries that have recently taken steps towards recognition of youth work would be very helpful.

Moreover, increased opportunities through European programs, such as Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps, are an important tool for quality development. Through mutual learning actions,

exchanges, online meetings and conferences, young people, youth workers and authorities can learn more about youth work.

On the local level, partnership opportunities should be provided between local authorities and young people/youth-led organisations, towards the development of a youth work system at local level.

GREATEST NEED FOR FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF YOUTH WORK IN THE NEXT THREE YEARS

- Establishing youth work as an essential part of youth policies;
- Strengthening the common ground of youth work (through co-operation between different institutions and stakeholders, between different levels and with other sectors);
- Supporting further development of quality youth work;
- Enhancing the promotion and recognition of youth work.

ADDITIONAL SOURCES

- EKCYP youth work country sheet: https://pjp-eu.coe.int/documents/42128013/47262550/Cyprus_country+sheet_youth+work_JB.pdf+1.pdf/60466b7e-6bf2-86a7-cdd8-981a70eb07d9
- Youth Wiki youth work chapter: <https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/national-policies/en/content/youthwiki/10-youth-work-cyprus>