

# Perspective on Youth Work Developments

## FRANCE FACT SHEET

The 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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:* (ministries, youth NGOs, municipalities etc.):

Under the Ministry of National Education and Youth, the Department for Youth, Non-Formal Education and Voluntary Organisations is tasked with developing youth policy. Consequently, it is a major actor in “youth work” in its broadest sense but also more specifically in socio-educational facilitation.

In France, youth work actors form a complex network and include:

Local and regional authorities;

Community Centres for youth people;

Socio-educational structures (social centers, youth and cultural structures);

Non-formal education federations and associations;

Youth voluntary organisations;

Youth and youth work NGOs.

### Highlights with regard to youth work development:

In France, Youth Work has a long and moving history, which reflects both developments in how young people are seen, and the changes in policy towards young people. Although there is no clear definition of youth work in the legislative framework, its history is linked to that of non-formal education. In fact, the non-formal education movement partly determined the principles and values of youth work: empowerment, citizenship, self-development and the building of social connections. INJEP is an important research structure supporting development of youth policy, including youth work.

STRENGTHS & SUCCESSES	CHALLENGES
<p>In France, youth work has undergone many changes both professionally and legislatively: professionalisation and progressive institutionalisation in a context of increased needs for youth work. The youth work is now perceived by the society (institutions, local authorities, family, etc.) as an essential professional sector for youth that complements formal education. It is also considered as an essential part of youth policies as well.</p>	<p>The following challenges can be highlighted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• establishing a legislative framework for youth work definition, where differences can be valued and connections can be promoted under a common frame of theory, ethical standards, competences, education/training requirements, evaluation methods for accountability and quality improvement;</li><li>• the widening and complexification of youth workers' social and educational interventions;</li><li>• the precariousness of the employment conditions of youth workers, especially those who do not have professional diplomas;</li><li>• ensuring and guaranteeing quality youth work;</li><li>• youth work development at the local level and elimination of territorial inequalities;</li><li>• implementing at the local level the youth work policies driven by the ministry in charge of youth, which implies strengthening cooperation between different actors and stakeholders.</li></ul>

### SUPPORT NEEDED

- promoting cooperation and peer-learning among member States and neighbouring countries;
- systematic and continuous review of evaluation research on youth work outcomes and processes in different contexts, covering a wide range of needs and interests expressed by young people;
- raising awareness of EU funding programmes for youth;
- conducting a transversal analysis of the skills developed in the EU funding programmes for youth;
- promoting exchanges between different actors of the youth work sector, encouraging meetings in order to provide quality youth work and enrich national policies;

- developing a multilingual dedicated European digital platform on youth work to share information, knowledge and good practices;
- supporting evidence-based approaches facilitating expert exchanges and research;
- encouraging a permanent commitment for more systematic youth research, to be used for knowledge-based policy development, realised in co-management with the youth work sector.

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

Strengthening the common ground of youth work (through co-operation between different institutions and stakeholders, between different levels and with other sectors).

## **ADDITIONAL SOURCES**

- EKCYP youth work country sheet:  
[https://pjpeu.coe.int/documents/42128013/47262550/France\\_country\\_sheet\\_youth+work.pdf/51d191e2-43fa-9893-d161-c24f3442f868](https://pjpeu.coe.int/documents/42128013/47262550/France_country_sheet_youth+work.pdf/51d191e2-43fa-9893-d161-c24f3442f868)
- Youth Wiki youth work chapter:  
<https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/national-policies/en/content/youthwiki/10-youth-work-france>
- INJEP-RAY report if mentioning the specific country:  
[https://www.researchyouth.net/download/RAY%20MON%202015\\_16\\_FR.pdf#](https://www.researchyouth.net/download/RAY%20MON%202015_16_FR.pdf#)