

Perspective on Youth Work Developments

ITALY 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: (ministries, youth NGOs, municipalities etc.)

Within the Prime Minister's Office, the Department of Youth and National Civic Service is in charge of coordinating youth policies under the guidance of the Minister for Labour and Social Welfare.

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

The Youth National Agency;

The National Youth Forum;

Students' organisations;

Associations working with non-formal education and mobility;

Regional Youth Forums;

Youth NGOs.

Highlights with regard to youth work development:

- Youth centres that receive funding at local level are common in Italy, especially in urban areas. They try to provide learning experiences closely connected with practice and explicitly focused on interests, motivations, passions and projects of young people.
- The National Youth Agency adopted a National Inclusion Strategy and nominated an inclusion officer with a view to reaching out – through youth organisations and networking - to all young people and especially those with fewer opportunities.

STRENGTHS & SUCCESSES	CHALLENGES
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• There is a number of youth work practices coming both from long-standing tradition and more recent state and regional interventions (especially in the creation of youth centres);• there is a growing generation of youth workers trained in EU funded projects in the youth sector, along with important recent networking/associative initiatives aimed at promoting the recognition of youth work in Italy in connection with the EU youth strategy;• youth work organisations in Italy historically developed with a high degree of autonomy from the state; this kept them largely immune from bureaucratic interference and left space to develop innovative practices;• thanks to a distinctive approach to cooperation with other adjacent services and policy (e.g. school, vocation training, social care, employment, culture, volunteering), interesting cross-sectoral practices can be found in Italian youth work.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Establishing a legislative framework for youth work definition and recognition, 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;• mapping and understanding the different cultures, approaches and practices of youth work in the third sector, the local public services and the cooperation between private and public actors;• increasing public funds dedicated to a continuous youth work provision at regional and local level, with priority for multi-annual programmes presented by youth work organisations and funded on the basis of appropriate evaluation of their processes and outcomes;• expanding knowledge on youth work and its practices at local level, with specific attention to forms of cross-sectoral work among operators and organisations working for/with youth (schools, social services, cultural and creative sectors, enterprise creation services, volunteering and active citizenship etc.);• providing a legal basis and regional youth policies tailored to the specific skills, strengths, potentials, challenges and empowerment needs of youth workers at regional level;• developing regional policies aimed at promoting networks, mutual learning, knowledge exchanges, and partnership among youth workers

	<p>and youth work organisations operating in different local contexts in the region and among different Italian regions;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • mapping all youth work organisations in line with national policy standards, and impartially disseminating clear information on their services, projects and activities among young people in the local community; • promoting a balanced provision of different cultures and traditions of youth work in the local context (e.g. between faith-based and secular youth work, different religious or political background, different specialisation on specific youth needs and interests etc.).
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SUPPORT NEEDED

- promoting a stronger integration of support measures for quality youth work in the youth policy developed at regional level, together with a stronger connection with the European debate on youth work;
- promoting and supporting the development of education training pathways for professional youth work;
- supporting the process of raising fund from different sources (national/EU programs, donors, private enterprises, crowdfunding, etc.), with a priority for projects connected with the EU youth strategy and the Youth Work Agenda;
- developing a multilingual dedicated European digital platform on youth work to share information, knowledge and good practices;
- promoting cooperation and peer-learning among member States and neighbouring countries;
- setting up a “Network for youth work development in Europe” that supports the development of quality youth work by promoting innovative approaches and inter-sectoral exchange;
- supporting evidence-based approaches facilitating expert exchanges and research;
- encouraging a permanent commitment for more systematic youth research, to be used for a knowledge-based policy development, realised in co-management with the youth work sector;
- creating a matching tool between the empowerment needs of youth workers and the offer of expertise and training at European level (i.e., prioritising the funding of training projects based on a clear match between training needs and expertise offer);
- 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.

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://pjp-eu.coe.int/documents/42128013/47262550/Italy_Youth+Work+Country+Sheet_final.pdf/d3efe144-6504-95f7-51bd-908bd17ab26a
- RAY report if mentioning the specific country link: <https://agenziagiovani.it/la-rete-ray/>