

Perspective on Youth Work Developments

MALTA 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 worker as a recognised occupation: YES

Legislative framework for youth work: YES

Main youth work actors: (ministries, youth NGOs, municipalities etc.)

The National Youth Agency;

Youth Work Profession Board;

The National Youth Council;

Youth and youth work NGOs.

Highlights with regard to youth work development:

- The implementation of the [National Youth Policy document Towards 2020: A Shared Vision for the Future of Young People](#) rests on 2 Strategies. Strategy 1 – Youth Work and services for young people - focuses on youth work services, programmes, projects and activities in support of personal development and well-being of young people through projects, initiatives and activities based on youth work and non-formal learning, as well as on information, participation and mobility.
- The Youth Work Profession Act 2014 gives formal professional recognition and status to youth workers, as well as regulating the profession and determining the qualifications and conditions under which youth workers can acquire such recognition.
- The Youth Work Profession Board was established to promote professional youth work standards and development, to keep and publish a register of all recognised and warranted youth workers.

STRENGTHS & SUCCESSES	CHALLENGES
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Youth Work is a formally recognised profession;• The National Youth Agency (government body) carries out functions related to youth affairs and specifically to ensure the highest standards in youth work as well as to formulate, co-ordinate, manage and evaluate youth work programmes which promote active youth participation and the empowerment of young people;• The Code of Professional Ethics for youth workers was drafted by the Youth Work Profession Board;• Most of the youth work programmes pertain to the domains of non-formal education and social inclusion and entail educational activities such as civic and political education programmes, recreational and volunteering activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Developing recognition mechanisms to identify specific skills and competencies that can be acquired through youth work;• Promoting cooperation between different entities offering services to young people;• Reaching out and engaging diverse youth cohorts, including migrant youth and young people in the local communities;• Promoting peer-learning and cooperation between sectors and types of youth work providers at local and national levels;• Developing cross-sectoral approaches,• Allowing for synergies and sharing methods and types of youth work between organisations.

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;
- supporting vulnerable young people in gaining access to EU funding programmes for youth;

- bringing closer to local communities the EU practices and examples of youth work developments;
- connection to and learning from well-established European and international networks;
- increasing the operational capacity of youth organisations;
- supporting evidence-based approaches facilitating expert exchanges and research.

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/42128013/47262610/YW-Country+sheet-MALTA.pdf/39340ab7-5aa9-c572-1add-f5fb5a5e399a>
- Youth Wiki youth work chapter:
<https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/national-policies/en/content/youthwiki/101-general-context-malta>