

Youth Partnership

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



Strengthening the potential of youth work in Eastern Europe

Peer learning event on support to youth work development

Rooms Hotel

Tbilisi, Georgia

27-28 November 2019

Programme and Objectives

Programme

Strengthening the potential of youth work in Eastern Europe		
	27 November	28 November
Theme	Understanding the reality and learning from inspiring initiatives	Developing proposals for strengthening the quality of youth work at local level
9:00 - 11:00	INTRO and WELCOME Marta Medlinska – EU-Council of Europe youth partnership Revaz Charkviani – National Youth Agency, Georgia Catalin Gherman - Delegation of the European Union to Georgia Council of Europe Office in Georgia (tbc) What are we talking about -Youth Work in the Region	Potential of youth work in Eastern Europe: from recognition to delivery Youth Work triangle - Panel debate Kristina Kapanadze, CDEJ Sebastian Vogt, AC Rita Jonusaite, YFJ Board Association of Youth Workers from Eastern Europe
11:00-11:30	Coffee Break	Coffee break
11:30-13:00	Knowledge Based Youth Work in Eastern European countries Research findings by Alena Ignatovitch and Max Fras	Cooperation and commitment to ensuring quality in youth work Keynote input: Kaur Kõtsi, Estonian Youth Work Centre and Piret Talur – Tartu City Youth Work Services <i>Work in groups</i> -standards setting: Matej Manevski and Mihai Vilcea <i>- infrastructure for youth:</i> Kristina Kapanadze and Olena Podobied Frankivska <i>- budget planning:</i> Ion Donea and Irina Belyaeva <i>- monitoring and evaluation of youth work quality:</i> Kaur Kõtsi and Judit Balogh
13:00-14:30	Lunch	
14:30-16:00	Quality in youth work: inspiring practices Parallel sessions led by participants <i>Building youth centres/ youth infrastructures</i> Mihai Vilcea and Irina Poletyha <i>Experiences of European, National and Local Youth Capitals</i> Rita Jonusaite and Maria Bivol <i>Education, training and support to youth workers</i> Jelena Stojanovic and Olga Gordila-Bobeico <i>Planning and developing local youth work services</i>	Cooperation and commitment to ensuring quality in youth work Keynote input: Dr. Hilary Tierney, Maynooth University, Ireland <i>Work in groups</i> <i>-investing in youth workers (education, learning and competences)</i> Group 1: Jelena Stoianovic and Tomi Kiilakoski Group 2: Jim Odonovan and Sebastjan Vogt <i>-methods/types of youth work (outreach, digital youth work, open youth work for skills development)</i> Group 1: Matjaz Medvesek and Rita Jonusaite Group 2: Gubaz Koberidze and Piret Talur

	Ion Donea and Piret Talur	
16:00-16:30	Coffee Break	
16:30-18:00	<p>Parallel sessions led by participants Quality in youth work: inspiring practices</p> <p><i>Cooperation of different actors and stakeholders at local level (Local public administration, Youth Workers, Youth Centres, Young people)</i> Judit Balogh and Nino Tsulaia</p> <p><i>Participation of young people in building quality youth work at local level YFJ, NYCs and local youth council representatives</i> Gubaz Koberidze and Pegah Moulana</p> <p><i>Developing supportive policy framework</i> Sebastian Vogt and Kristina Kapanadze</p> <p><i>Methods/ tools of youth work (outreach, digital youth work, open youth work for skills development...)</i> Anna Yeghoyan and Matjaz Medvesek</p> <p><i>Exploring elements for a MOOC on essentials of youth work</i> Dariusz Grzemny and Hilary Tierney</p>	<p>Next steps in Youth Work development in the region Conclusions and wrap-up</p>
18:00-18:30	Harvesting in groups	Closing of the event
	Dinner	Dinner and cultural evening hosted by Georgian Government

Purpose and expected outcomes

This activity will reflect on the diverse realities of youth work across the region and on how to foster a better matching of its needs and those of the young people, with the reality of youth policy, on a regional level and with consideration for European institutional developments. Thus, it will inform the work of the High Level Task Force on the implementation of the CM Recommendation on youth work and the Council of Europe statutory bodies on youth, as well as the reflections on a European youth work agenda. The event will refer to the research on educational pathways of youth workers and on youth work professions and vocations, and facilitate cooperation on developing offers for education and training of youth workers. It will take the form of a peer-learning event and be an opportunity to promote relevant European and national practices and tools.

The preparatory meeting held in Tbilisi on 9 July identified national policy priorities related to youth work development and regional trends or common topics. The country realities shared during the preparatory meeting have identified the following trends in youth work development across the region with a strong emphasis on quality development of youth work, including

- Strong infrastructure and youth work services at local and regional level (youth clubs and youth centres with a strong non-formal education component)
- Recognition of the contribution of youth work for young people's skills and employability
- Need to develop formal education offers and promotion of recognition of youth work profession as well as its impact in society
- Need to connect to European initiatives on youth work.

Expected outcomes

- Better knowledge on the reality and the needs of youth work providers in the region and on the existing youth policy support measures and structures for youth work at local and regional level across Eastern Europe
- Reflection on education and training needs of volunteer and paid youth workers in the countries and support measures that can strengthen the quality of education and training offers but also of the quality of youth work delivery
- Increased awareness of the support and specific tools available at European and regional level for youth work and for youth work policy as well as closing the gap on knowledge, where possible
- Deeper reflections on the role of youth work in relation to youth centres and outreach youth work, social inclusion, youth participation and active citizenship, skills and educational development, employability of young people as well as to quality learning mobility and sharing knowledge and examples of good practice initiatives through bilateral and multilateral cooperation including Quality Label of Youth Centres, Europe Goes Local, Youth Capitals, mapping of education and training of youth workers, MOOC on youth work and other relevant initiatives

- Better connections among the youth work relevant stakeholders within the region and within individual countries and development of youth work networks to strengthen.
- Good practices initiated in the region related to youth work inspiring developments in other countries in the region and across Europe.

Expected output

Background study on the reality of youth work development in Eastern Europe countries with particular focus on case studies and examples of projects related to development of youth work policy, services and infrastructure as well as development of educational offers for youth workers. The study will form the basis for a handbook on youth work development in Eastern Europe to be finalized in 2020, which could include a state of play, a compendium of initiatives and practices and advice on how to develop such systems).

Rationale

In 2018 the EU-CoE youth partnership organised the annual meetings of PEYR and of EKCYP correspondents in Chisinau, Moldova, with the aim to [better understand and stimulate youth research in the region and its links to youth policy](#). Contributions of EKCYP to knowledge gathering on topics related to the EU Youth Wiki platform from countries in the region have also covered youth policy governance (2017), volunteering (2018) and youth participation (2019). Moreover, since 2017, the EU-CoE youth partnership has carried out [research on the educational paths of youth workers](#), as a contribution to the quality development of youth work. Finally, EU-CoE youth partnership seminar on strengthening youth work in Southeast Europe, in 2018 has also identified tools and systems of national and regional cooperation relevant to Eastern Europe.

The European Union youth strategy has carried out expert reflections on quality development in youth work, on digital youth work, youth work against violent radicalisation as well as youth work with young refugees. The new EU Youth Strategy 2019-2027 features youth work among its key priorities with an expectation of developing a European Agenda on youth work. The Finnish presidency of the EU has chosen to highlight youth work related topics (digital youth work and education of youth workers) and Germany is preparing to host the 3rd European Youth Work Convention under its EU Presidency and the Council of Europe CM Chairmanship in December 2020. Finally, large-scale projects and initiatives are being supported through Erasmus+ programme focusing on youth work (ex: Europe Goes Local – youth work at municipal level or European Academy on Youth Work - trends and innovation).

The Council of Europe CM Recommendation on youth work (CM/Rec(2017)4 calls for a number of initiatives such as developing evidence-based quality youth work, safeguarded and pro-actively supported within local, regional or national youth policies, as appropriate'. The Recommendation has been translated into 16 languages. Several member States are revising national policies that focus on strengthening youth work also under the impetus of this recommendation. The outcomes of the consultative meeting exploring challenges and solutions concerning the shrinking space for civil society and youth organisations, held in 2018 by the Youth Department of the Council of Europe, looked at how this situation impacts youth work.