



Strasbourg, 8 September 2017

CMJ(2017)17

JOINT COUNCIL ON YOUTH

37th meeting
Strasbourg, 16-18 October 2017
European Youth Centre

Recommendation CM/Rec(2017)4 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on youth work

Process for the dissemination and implementation of the Recommendation:

Draft roadmap 2018-2021

Item 6 on the agenda

Secretariat memorandum
prepared by the Youth Department

Directorate of Democratic Citizenship and Participation

Introduction: scope and purpose of the Recommendation

Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 31 May 2017, [Recommendation CM/Rec\(2017\)4](#) “aims to encourage member States to develop their youth work policy and practice within their sphere of competence and invites member States to adopt a range of measures that will strengthen the necessary support for youth work at local, regional, national and European levels.” (cf. Appendix, part A: scope and purpose of the Recommendation).

The Recommendation defines youth work as “a wide variety of activities of a social, cultural, educational, environmental and/or political nature by, with and for young people, in groups or individually. Youth work is delivered by paid and volunteer youth workers and is based on non-formal and informal learning processes focused on young people and on voluntary participation. Youth work is quintessentially a social practice, working with young people and the societies in which they live, facilitating young people’s active participation and inclusion in their communities and in decision making” (cf. Appendix, part A: definition and scope of youth work).

In this respect, the importance of the history of youth work and its relevance to today’s youth work should also be underlined.

Ensuring the implementation of the Recommendation

At their joint meeting (Budapest, 8-9 June 2017), the CDEJ and CCJ Bureaux expressed their satisfaction with the swift adoption of this landmark text, which would contribute to the promotion and recognition of youth work in Council of Europe member States (cf. document CDEJCCJ/BUR(2017)PV1).

The CDEJ and CCJ Bureaux also agreed with the development of a roadmap 2018-2021 for the implementation of the Recommendation and on creating an ad hoc high-level task force of relevant stakeholders, as foreseen by the Recommendation itself, which would elaborate a mid-term strategy for the knowledge-based development of European youth work. The CDEJ and CCJ Bureaux also agreed that the roadmap and the terms of reference of the task force would be examined by the Joint Council on Youth at its 37th meeting (16-18 October 2017).

In line with previous practice (implementation plan for Recommendation CM/Rec(2015)3 on the access of young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods to social rights; roadmap for the implementation of Recommendation CM/Rec(2016)7 on young people’s access to rights), the draft roadmap proposed below is based on the combined work and co-operation between public authorities in member States, youth organisations and the Council of Europe (Youth Department). Ensuring co-operation and synergies between the different stakeholders concerned is indeed key to ensuring the successful dissemination and implementation of Recommendation CM/Rec(2017)4.

Dissemination and implementation: roadmap 2018-2021

1. Member States

- 1.1 Translate and disseminate (in accessible formats) the text of the Recommendation to relevant authorities and stakeholders;
- 1.2 In co-ordination with other sectors and related policies, prepare strategies, frameworks, legislation, sustainable structures and resources that promote equal access to youth work for all young people;
- 1.3 Establish a coherent and flexible competency-based framework for the education and training of paid and volunteer youth workers that takes into account existing practice, new trends and arenas, as well as the diversity of youth work;¹
- 1.4 Foster national and European research on the different forms of youth work and their value, impact and merit;

¹ Based, notably, on the outcomes of the ad hoc high-level task force to be set up by the Council of Europe (see paragraph 3.1).

- 1.5 Promote the sharing of practices and exchange of experiences among partners and stakeholders at both national and European levels;
- 1.6 Support the development of appropriate forms of review and evaluation of youth work.

2. *Youth organisations*

- 2.1 Support the dissemination of this Recommendation among youth workers;
- 2.2 Advocate the establishment or further development of quality youth work within local, regional, national or international youth policies;
- 2.3 Actively engage in any planned measures for the implementation of this Recommendation;
- 2.4 Implement capacity-building and awareness-raising activities with youth workers in order to further support the exchange of youth work practices, peer learning and the creation of sustainable networks and partnerships, for example through study sessions in the European Youth Centres and activities supported by the European Youth Foundation;
- 2.5 Promote the sharing of practices and exchange of experiences among partners and stakeholders at both national and European levels.

3. *Council of Europe (Youth Department)*

- 3.1 Set up an ad hoc high-level task force of the relevant stakeholders in youth work in Europe, which can elaborate a mid-term strategy for the knowledge-based development of European youth work (two meetings in 2018, two meetings in 2019);
- 3.2 Support the development and recognition of quality youth work and non-formal education and learning in the programme of the European Youth Centres and through activities funded by the European Youth Foundation;
- 3.3 Promote the Council of Europe Quality Label for Youth Centres as an example of good practice;
- 3.4 Disseminate further the Council of Europe Youth Work Portfolio in member States;
- 3.5 Include the Recommendation and its principles in other relevant areas of its work (youth policy development and advice, assistance measures to member States) where relevant;
- 3.6 Ensure inter-institutional co-operation in the promotion of this Recommendation.

Review: from 2023

In line with other recent recommendations adopted by the Committee of Ministers in the field of youth (CM/Rec(2015)3, CM/Rec(2016)7), Recommendation CM/Rec(2017)4 further recommends that governments of member States “examine, within the Committee of Ministers, the implementation of this recommendation five years after adoption.”

This means that the Recommendation will have to be reviewed by the Committee of Ministers in 2023 (after five full years of implementation). This review could be prepared in 2022 under the authority of the Joint Council on Youth and include:

- Measures undertaken by the member States and, where possible, results achieved;
- Projects and initiatives by youth organisations;
- Plans or projects carried out by or with local authorities;
- Results and outcomes of the ad hoc high-level task force on youth work.

Appendix: preliminary list of planned activities

Date	Action to be completed	Body responsible
2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Publication of the Recommendation and its explanatory memorandum in English/French - Adoption of the roadmap for the dissemination and implementation of the Recommendation - Adoption of the mandate of the ad hoc high-level task force on youth work - Preliminary results of the mapping on educational paths of youth workers 	Council of Europe Joint Council on Youth Joint Council on Youth EC/CoE Youth Partnership
2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Two meetings of the ad hoc high-level task force on youth work² - At least four study sessions on youth work development and recognition² - One training course for the educational staff of the youth centres in the Quality Label network² - One national seminar on using the Youth Work Portfolio to support youth work² - Projects and activities on youth work to be financed by the European Youth Foundation - Publication of the mapping on educational paths of youth workers 	Council of Europe EC/CoE Youth Partnership
2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Two meetings of the ad hoc high-level task force on youth work² - At least four study sessions on youth work development and recognition² - One training course for the educational staff of the youth centres in the Quality Label network² - One national seminar on using the Youth Work Portfolio to support youth work² - Projects and activities on youth work to be financed by the European Youth Foundation - Conference/seminar on the training paths of youth workers, to be organised in Finland in the framework of the Finnish Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers (TBC) 	Council of Europe Hosting country Council of Europe Statutory bodies
2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 3rd European Youth Work Convention, to be organised in Germany (TBC) 	Hosting country Council of Europe Statutory bodies

² As approved by the Programming Committee on Youth in June 2017 and subject to the adoption of the Programme and Budget 2018-2019 by the Committee of Ministers at its 1300th meeting (21-23 November 2017).