



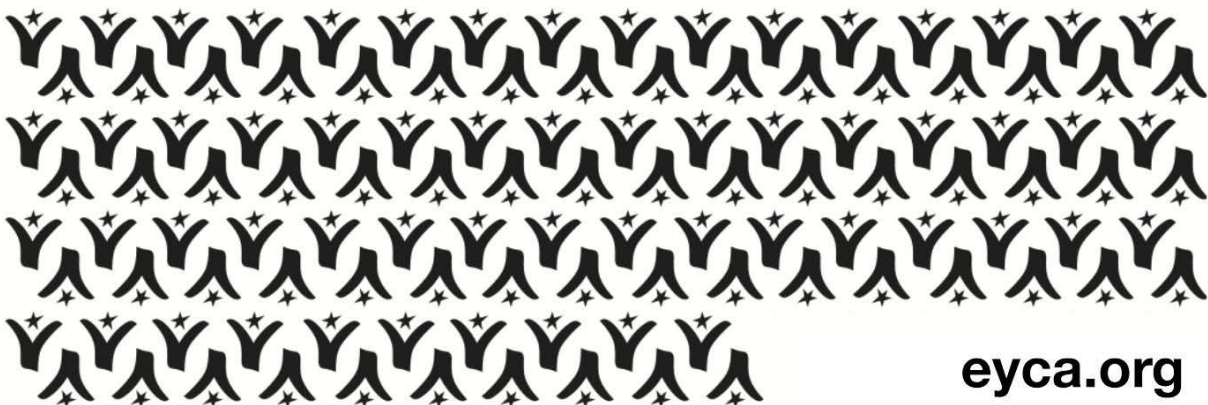
**European Youth
Card Association**



SEMINAR

Promotional Seminar of the Partial Agreement on Youth
Mobility through the Youth Card
REPORT

14 - 16 December 2017
Varna, Bulgaria



Introduction

This promotional seminar is part of the 2017 programme of activities of the Council of Europe Partial Agreement on Youth Mobility through the Youth Card. It will be organised by the Partial Agreement on Youth Mobility and the European Youth Card Association (EYCA) in co-operation with the National Youth Card Association Bulgaria /NYCA/ and Varna – European Youth Capital Association /Varna – EYC/.

In 2017 Varna was awarded the title European Youth Capital. The Slogan of the Capital is InnoWave Varna, promoting social innovation among young people and youth organizations. In that context Varna – EYC 2017 and NYCA signed an agreement. The agreement supports common actions between both organizations such as the promotion of the Capital by printing the logo on European Youth Cards and sending information to all cardholders about the activities in 2017 and 2018.

The main objectives of the seminar were to:

- Promote the European Youth Card as a tool for policy development and implementation, at local, national and European levels, especially towards Government representatives;
- Encourage Governments who have not signed the Partial Agreement on Youth Mobility to do so and mainstream 'youth mobility' as a priority in their public policies;
- Share good practices on how the European Youth Card is developed by EYCA members and get hands-on experience on how the youth card is used to provide services to young people at all levels.
- Promote the cooperation between Varna - European Youth Capital and NYCA as an example of good practice and encourage the future EYC and EYC Network to cooperate with EYCA on European level.

The seminar was organised **as a response to an interest** voiced by a number of states not yet party to the Partial Agreement, to learn more about it, as well as about the youth card and its implementation.

Therefore, **the profile of participants** was:

- representatives of Governments working to develop and implement national youth policies and being interested to connect it with the European dimension as regards the youth card and youth mobility, from the following countries: Albania, Bulgaria, Greece and Belarus.
- representatives of EYCA member organisations, including EYCA Board members;
- national public authorities of Bulgaria;
- representatives of the European Youth Capitals Varna (Bulgaria) and Cascais (Portugal);

Content-wise, the seminar consisted of presentations on:

- the role of [Partial Agreement on Youth Mobility through the Youth Card](#) of the Council of Europe;
- the different models and topic on how the youth card can be used to implement youth policies;
- connecting the youth card and various programmes in the youth field, such as European Youth Capital.

The first day was dedicated to introduce the Partial Agreement: how it works and what are the benefits of joining it. The overall objective of the Partial Agreement is for member governments and EYCA member organisations to work together to create better mobility solutions for young people. This general objective implies two main aims:

- ❖❖ Development of the Youth Card scheme;
- ❖❖ Development of youth policies with and for member governments.

Currently, the following states are part of PA on Youth Mobility: Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, Finland, Hungary, Ireland, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Montenegro, The Netherlands, Portugal, San Marino, Serbia, Slovenia, Slovakia and Switzerland.

Participants asked clarifications related to:

Q: How the Partial Agreement can be joined and who signs it?

A: In most of the cases, it is the Ministry of Foreign Affairs which technically signs the PA. However, the institutions responsible on youth affairs (Ex: Ministry of Youth) is the one attending the events, following the process, benefiting of the available resources etc.

Q: What is the contribution fee for joining the PA and who is responsible for it?

A: The fee varies according to the youth population in each country and there is a standard formula for calculus. The payment is, in principle, done by the Government, but it is a matter of internal decision.

Participants also were offered more details about the benefits of being part of the PA:

- tailored services on how the youth card can be used to advance different policy issues;
- access to PA seminars, conferences and events;
- stronger connection with the civil society and especially the EYCA member organisation which implements the card in their country.

The full presentation of EYCA can be accessed here: <https://goo.gl/ZkKurD>

The second day of the seminar started with presentation of the European youth policies and current undergoing processes in the youth sector:

- ❖❖ the preparation of Council of Europe Agenda 2030
- ❖❖ the preparation of new EU Youth Strategy.

Based on the CoE youth priorities for 2018 -2019, participants brainstormed on different ways to use the youth card in order to implement them:

- ❖❖ How can the youth card facilitate access to rights for young people?

- Develop information campaigns among young cardholders, especially using a youth-friendly and accessible language;
- Set-up a peer service of law students advising other young people on how to use legal instruments and access their rights;
- Offer brochures, information and support in the youth centres where the card is distributed.

❖❖ How can the youth card boost youth participation and quality of youth work?

- Use the youth card platforms to stimulate youth engagement on various civic topics, especially using social media available;
- Link the youth card to various youth representation platforms (ex: youth parliaments, youth councils, youth forums etc);
- Use the youth card to promote youth participation in elections and voting;
- Organise digital events such as facebook live meetings with decision-makers or group consultations, instagram-takeovers or thunderclap for different causes that stimulate youth participation;
- Link the youth card to strategic policy documents, such as the European Charter for Democratic Citizenship or the next EU Youth Strategy;
- Support the professionalization of youth work and recognition as a career path;
- Support validation of non-formal education.

❖❖ How can the youth card be used to promote peaceful and inclusive societies?

- Offer specific programmes to young migrants and refugees to support their social inclusion;
- Organise seminars on tackling youth violent radicalisation;
- Use the youth card to reduce stigma, discrimination and social exclusion;
- Use the youth card as a tool to promote positive behaviours.

The seminar continued with presentations of EYCA member organisations and different specific questions which were answered on the spot, by EYCA members.

The presentations are available here:

National Youth Card Association | The role of card in youth programmes - <https://goo.gl/dt6JvH>
Young Scot | The Youth Card as a tool for youth engagement - <https://goo.gl/Aj9WjZ>
Agencia Catalana de la Juventut | The Youth Card promoting youth participation - <https://goo.gl/jAS5qV>
CJP Card | The cultural role of the Youth Card - <https://goo.gl/ozAhMA>
Govern de les Illes Balears | The Youth Card promoting social inclusion - <https://goo.gl/Wfo1mP>
Movijovem | The Youth Card promoting mobility - <https://goo.gl/M59YXf>

During the second part of the day, EYCA guests and participants had a meeting with the representatives of Network of European Youth Capital (informal platform). The meeting consisted of:

- presentations of two platforms and their initiatives in the youth sector;
- presentation of outreach to young people, main beneficiaries and topics of interest;
- possible paths of collaboration and exchange of hand-outs;
- agreement on the possibility to have a more strategic meeting where both platforms can explore, in detail, the various ways of collaboration.

List of participants

Name	Surname	Institution
Briseida	Dokou	Ministry of Education, Research & Religious Affairs, Government of Greece
Shpati	Kolgega	Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth, Government of Albania
Luidmila	Kozuhovskaya	Ministry of Youth and Sports, Government of Belarus
Marina	Galstyan	Ministry of Youth and Sports, Government of Armenia
Veselina	Georgieva	Ministry of Youth and Sports, Government of Bulgaria
EYCA representatives		
Victoria	Solera Ripoll	Institut Balear de la Joventut
Sergio López	Parareda	Institut Balear de la Joventut
Carlos	Nunes	Movijovem
Josep	Moline	EYCA Board
Juan	Olivia	Market AAD
Domenec	Ballester	Agncia Catalana de la Juventut
Marie	Duguid	Young Scot
Lilia	Elenkova	NYCA Bulgaria
Mike	Mestebeld	CJP
Wendy	Hoogeboom	CJP
Günther	Bedson	Swissedu Net
Ivelina	Peeva	EYCA Board
Manel	Sanchez	EYCA Office
Corina	Pirvulescu	EYCA Office

PROGRAMME OF THE SEMINAR

DAY 1 - 14 December 2017	
14.00	<p>Welcome address by hosts and organisers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manel Sanchez - EYCA Director • Bilyana Raeva – President of Varna2017 Association • Iveina Peeva – National Youth Card Association <p>Round of introductions from participants</p>
GENERAL SESSION	
14.30 -16.00	<p>Presentation and discussion: The Partial Agreement and its role in the implementation of youth policies in member states – examples of good practice from governments</p>
16.00 – 18.00	<p>Varna sightseeing tour</p> <p>Guide will present the history and beautiful architecture and sculpture of Varna. Participants will visit as well 3 youth spaces:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Tea House • Innovator • Hall 3
19.30	Dinner at the hotel
DAY 2 - 15 December 2017	
09.30 – 10.15	Mapping the youth policy landscape – Where can the European Youth Card have a role in national and transnational cooperation
GOOD PRACTICE EXAMPLES	
10.30 – 11.15	<p>The European Youth Card and effective youth policies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Youth Card Association The role of card in youth programmes • Young Scot The Youth Card as a tool for youth engagement <p>Questions and answers</p>
11.15 - 11.30	Coffee break
GOOD PRACTICE EXAMPLES (continued)	
11.30 – 13.00	<p>The European Youth Card and effective youth policies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agencia Catalana de la Juventut The Youth Card promoting youth participation • CJP Card The cultural role of the Youth Card • Govern de les Illes Balears The Youth Card promoting social inclusion • Movijovem The Youth Card promoting mobility

13.00 – 14.00	Lunch
YOUTH CARDS & PROMOTING YOUTH ACHIEVEMENTS	
14.00 – 17.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of European Youth Capitals Network and reflection on possible future cooperation between both organizations ✓✓ Short presentation of the results of EYC Network meeting ✓✓ Short presentation of the cooperation between NYCA and Varna in 2017 ✓✓ Cross-points of future activities in favor of the capacity development of young people at local, national and European level – mobility, participation, inclusion?
17.00 – 17.15	Closing remarks
18.30	Ceremonial dinner of the European Youth Capitals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Ivan Portnih, Varna Municipality, Mayor • Mr Carlos Carreiras, Cascais, Mayor • Kristen Argio, European Youth Forum, Board member
DAY 3 - 16 December 2017	
Departures	