



**Partial Agreement on
Youth Mobility through the Youth Card
Final report 2016**



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Final report 2016

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to describe the activities and impact of the work undertaken by EYCA in 2016 as a result of the support the Association received through the Partial Agreement on Youth Mobility through the Youth Card in the framework of the Council of Europe.

The Partial Agreement on Youth Mobility through the Youth Cards has become one of core priorities of the European Youth Card Association, through 25 years of its operations. EYCA has invested significant efforts to revive and strengthen its relationship with the Council of Europe as part of implementing its vision to improve youth mobility and active citizenship for all young people in Europe.

The process of revising the Partial Agreement was launched in October 2012, leading to better tailored activities which are beneficial for both PA member states and EYCA members. There has been an effort to design the work programmes to more accurately meet the needs of governments who already contribute, and communicate more effectively its potential value to governments who could contribute.

Youth Mobility is a current priority for all policy-makers with an interest in youth issues in Europe. Having in mind its different aspects (work mobility, learning mobility, touristic mobility, etc.), EYCA has a great potential to fulfil the gap which is recognized by all policy stakeholders when it comes to the available data and development of mobility policies.

The migrant crisis with its outburst in 2015. has put a different light on the mobility issues, where young people become increasingly important agents. Mobility is seen not as a privilege any more, but a necessity for many young people, from inside and outside Europe. This necessity creates specific issues, and demand specific outputs and tools to tackle these issues.

Policy makers report that there is a limited established knowledge and intelligence related to these complex issues of youth mobility. There is a need for greater understanding of the factors which push and pull youth mobility, patterns of youth mobility and how they are changing; the potential impacts on young people and on the society, and future impacts of large number of young migrants fleeing into Europe.

Policy makers are interested to learn more about good practices in other countries. EYCA can provide excellent insights into these practices, having in mind 38 countries in its network, all dedicated to supporting youth mobility. EYCA is equipped to easily and promptly generate intelligence from different European countries on any aspect of mobility, which is of interest for stakeholders.

European Youth Cards are a valuable tool for mobility of young people, which is to be further promoted and strengthened. Youth cards connect young people to all kinds of information, services and opportunities, many of them are linked to employability and entrepreneurship, which has definitely become the focus in Europe in recent years. Youth Cards provide communication channels which can enable policy-makers (1) to provide young people with information, and (2) to consult young people directly. And many youth card organisations create innovative practices to engage young people as active citizens and in co-designing solutions.

EYCA has started the process of disseminating knowledge about practice examples during 2013 through its GPS series (see EYCA GPSs <http://issuu.com/eyca>). Further development of knowledge dissemination is envisaged in the Partial Agreement activities for 2017.

Priorities

Having in mind priorities, expected results and program orientations for 2016-2017 adopted by the Joint Council on Youth, we strongly advocate that youth mobility is an important tool for achieving these objectives.

Advancing democratic citizenship through innovative forms of participation cannot be seen without youth mobility. Mobility is essential for the *autonomy of young people and their access to rights*, and even more for the *promotion of inclusive and peaceful societies* in the context of strengthening intercultural dialogue among young people, and even more with incoming huge migrant community.

Therefore, the proposed specific aims for the Partial Agreement work programme 2016-2017 are:

- To generate and mobilize knowledge about youth mobility in Europe;
- To support governments to make better policy responses to youth mobility issues;
- To engage a wide range of stakeholders to devise youth mobility-related policy including European institutions, governments, business, experts and young people;
- To stimulate and present youth card practice that contributes to better youth mobility solutions leading to integration and inclusion, especially in the light of refugee crisis in Europe.

I. HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY: YOUTH POLICY AND YOUTH WORK PROMOTING THE CORE VALUES OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

1. Commissioning design and content input for EYCA communications tools

1.1 Communication activities have been implemented as planned.

- The EYCA Facebook page is growing, with nearly 1,300 likes and an average organic reach of 16,000 people per month.

1.2 Website

- The website design is ready and we are now working on the development part. We aim to have the front end and the content management system ready in February.
- A new discount database is also being prepared. In addition to a user-friendly system, we are also including the option to add pictures to each discount.
Another item on our list is to simplify the current discount categories, which are too detailed and make navigation cumbersome for the user. This will not affect the categories used by members so if a member prefers to use the old categories, they will be able to do so.
With the new discount database connected to the EYCA app, the French app and possibly the Slovenian app, it is all the more important to encourage members to manage their services in the database closely.

1.3 EYCA Update

The EYCA internal newsletter was sent out at the beginning of each month to all EYCA members.

1.4 **EYCAatcher** – the public EYCA newsletter was sent out quarterly. The topic of the latest edition was European Youth Cards Supporting Volunteering and the main article focused on 17 years of the partnership between EYCA and the European Commission for the European Voluntary Service. The 17th anniversary info was picked up and reported by the Commission on the European Youth Facebook page.

1.5 **Quarterly Update.** EYCA's Quarterly Update is conducted with all member organisations as well as all 19 card organisations in the autonomous Spanish regions. The Quarterly Update is a key tool for analysing members' performance and needs. The questions are re-phrased every quarter to match the current developments in the Association and a comprehensive narrative report is produced for both the EYCA Board and the members themselves. The findings and trends are then presented and discussed at the EYCA Annual Conference and General Assembly.

2. Travel, board and lodging associated with:

- **Quality improvement support to existing members**

Visit to France to support the launch of the European Youth Card

Objectives of the visit

- To support the new EYCA member organisation in France and the partners supporting the development of the European Youth Card in this country

Partial Agreement Report 2016

- As part of Maximising Impact Programme, this visit aimed to support our new member to develop up to the minimum quality standards in EYCA
- Take part in the event of launching the card together with the Council of Europe, The Municipality of Strasbourg and the Strasbourg University.
- Encourage the Government to join the Partial Agreement.

Next steps

- Our member to attend the General Assembly in Gdansk
- CIJ participated in the Associate Training session as part of the Maximising Impact Programme (MI) in Gdansk in June 2016.
- They will participate in the MI program exchange visit that will take place in December 2016 to Sweden.
- During 2016 EYCA supported a Research/feasibility Study in order to implement the card in the territory of France and to contribute to the country Youth Policies.

Visit to Ukraine to support the EURO 26 Zarevo

Participants and meetings

Meeting with Deputy Minister of Youth Oleksandr Yarema

Meeting with the responsible for Youth Issues in the President Administration Oleksandr Gontaruk

Meeting with APOSU Deputy Chairman of the trade union of educators and science S.Romanyuk.

Meeting in NGOs Student Republic.

Meeting with the head of Odesa Tourism department Irakli Nasidze

Meeting with chairman of the Student Council of Kyiv nat. University and with representatives of Plast (scouts) NGO.

The purpose of the visit was to support EYCA member in this territory and to help them with the new launch of the card. Since the meeting also took place at the Ministerial level the Partial Agreement on Youth Mobility was an issue addressed and to be further explore.

As a result of this visit the Head of the Department of Youth Irina Beilaieva attended the Partial Agreement seminar that took place in Sitges, Barcelona, Spain on September 2016.

Also there were visits to EYCA member in Italy, Greece and Ireland. In all cases there were also meetings with governmental representatives. The Partial Agreement was one of the topics covered in all the visits and meetings.

- **Identifying new member organisations for EYCA**

- **Germany:** Different visits to several German Organizations were made during the final part of the year 2016 to explore a possible cooperation between some organizations and EYCA. Discussions focused on the best possible model for a future European Youth Card in Germany
Final negotiations are on the way and an application for a new member of EYCA in Germany is expected to be presented at the next EYCA Board in February 2017
Also an application is expected for the territory of Wurttemberg

Georgia (December): A visit was conducted to Tbilisi in order to talk to several possible partners to develop the European Youth Card in Georgia also with the support of the government. A representative from this government should be present in the next PA seminar in Cyprus.

New Members of EYCA during 2016 were England, Moldova and Ireland.

- **Legal support dimension of quality improvement develop**

Domain registration and protection

- To ensure the reciprocity of European Youth Card discounts and benefits in all European countries, the registration and protection of online domains is crucial. To make sure youth information is easily accessible to young people, EYCA has registered europeanyouthcard.xy and eyca.xy domains, so that they can be used by member organisations.

Effective license and sub-license agreements

- According to the EYCA Statutes, there can only be one license holder for the European Youth Card per territory, i.e. one organisation developing the card for the given country/territory. However, to expand the distribution network and to make the card available to all young people, there are also sub-license agreements in some cases. EYCA provides the legal services connected to both license and sub-license agreements.

EYCA Statutes

- New EYCA Statutes were approved during the last General Assembly that took place in Gdansk, Poland in June 2016. Quality Standards, Internal Regulations, Brand Books and License agreements were also updated and approved unanimously by EYCA Members.

II. LIVING TOGETHER IN DIVERSE SOCIETIES: YOUTH POLICY AND YOUTH WORK PROMOTING INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE

1. Commissioning technology infrastructure:

- **to support good practice database development**
- **to support EYCA's members' group structure**
- The existing **EYCA intranet** is being extended into a comprehensive EYCA Customer Relationship Management system (CRM), gathering information about all EYCA members and partners into one online database, together with a log of the Office and Board communication with EYCA Member Organisations (MOs) and partners. This system is necessary to:
 - Inform the decisions of the EYCA Board
 - Structure the information and knowledge collected from members by the Office into an easily accessible form for all
 - Create an EYCA knowledge database for sharing successful practice, useful documents and important information between member organisations
 - Enable easier production of summary statistics and analysis
 - Support Maximising Impact work to assess the situation/capacity of EYCA members and to inform the development of action plans
 - Record the communication between Office/Board and members
 - Support the work of the Group Board members
 - Ensure knowledge transfer and continuity (changing members, staff, Board members, etc.)

EYCA App

- The EYCA app project has been developed during 2016 and it is aiming to be launched in January 2017.
- EYCA is working on an updated api to make it easier for members to get EYCA numbers from the CCDB automatically.

Partial Agreement Report 2016

- Several Members are supported by EYCA to be part of the pilot group that will develop the App. The Office is providing support.

2. EYCA's members' group structure, including specific Conference workshops

EYCA regional meetings were organized as following:

- Group 1 – Madrid, Spain, May 11-12.
- Group 2 – Sofia, Bulgaria. June 11.
- Group 3 – Budapest, Hungary May 27.
- Group 4 – Gdansk, Poland June 3.
- Group 5 – Samobor, Croatia. May 11-12.

Partial Agreement evolution and new possibilities of implementation were discussed in the meetings. Also the PA programme 2016-2107 was discussed.

3. Commissioning the generation and dissemination of knowledge relating to volunteering and youth citizenship

Since 1999, EYCA in cooperation with the European Commission has been issuing a special EVS edition of the European Youth Card to all volunteers of the EVS Programme. A new agreement was signed in December 2014 estimating that 23,000 EVS European Youth Cards will be issued from November 2014 until December 2016. With this new agreement, additional actions were agreed to increase the visibility of the European Youth Card:

- Include EVS-European Youth Cards into EYCA Common Cardholder Database
- Generate intelligence about the use of the European Youth Card: EVS participants' final report on their service will include 3 questions related to their European Youth Card
- Promotion of the EYC and the EVS Programme:
 - The European Commission agreed to publish an article about the EYC in the European Youth Portal under the section dedicated to Volunteering in Europe
 - The European Commission agreed to promote the EVS European Youth Cards through the Erasmus+ National Agencies. EYCA Office has prepared a short presentation "EVS European Youth Card" to be integrated in the orientation courses that the National Agencies organise for all arriving EVS volunteers.
- EVS European Youth Card online competition
 - EYCA ran between April -May 2016 a pan-European video competition called "2016 EVS European Youth Card Awards" for EVS Volunteers in Europe.
 - The purpose of this competition was to increase the visibility of the European Youth Card and the EVS and create positive mobility role models by disseminating personal stories and testimonials of EVS European Youth Cardholders. These videos will be used by EYCA in our communications.
 - Several EYCA member organisations (Greece, Spain, Portugal) volunteered to offer the prizes for the competition consisting in two all inclusive weekend trips. Prizes were redeemed in summer 2016.

III. SOCIAL INCLUSION OF YOUNG PEOPLE

1. Travel, board and lodging associated with knowledge exchange meetings and events related to promoting and developing social inclusion aspects of youth card organisations

- **Meetings with the European Youth Forum**

The YFJ is one of EYCA's key partners in the area of youth policy; there are several national members who hold both the EYCA and the YFJ portfolio. EYCA cooperates with YFJ on Structured Dialogue (SD) by encouraging card organisations to distribute the SD questionnaire to cardholders and encourage them to participate. The information collected then feeds into the national report. EYCA also facilitates the cooperation of YFJ and European Youth Card organisations on national level.

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the two organizations in order to establish an official cooperation on Structured Dialogue. A letter was sent in January 2016 to all EYCA members and all SD National Working Groups to encourage them to work together bring the SD to as many young people as possible.

- **10-11 May 2016: PA Seminar in Samobor, Croatia "European Youth Card supporting young refugees"**

The seminar "Mobility towards inclusion: EYC supporting young migrants & refugees" was part of the 2016 programme of activities of the Council of Europe Partial Agreement on Youth Mobility through the Youth Card.

The PA seminar was organised in the context of recent debates on social inclusion of young refugees and adapting the youth work and services to the new European realities. The event offered a space to look at specific methods, services and policies that can be advanced by EYCA members to achieve this goal. Participants also looked at possibilities to build projects around the youth card and engage the cardholders themselves in supporting social inclusion of young refugees.

Form a methodological perspective, the seminar combined a variety of non-formal education methods, among which we mention:

- Key-note speeches on topics related directly to the challenges that young refugee face in getting socially integrated once they arrive in European communities;
- Presentations of key stakeholders such as the Advisory Council on Youth of the Council of Europe, the National Youth Council of Croatia;
- Interactive workshop on youth work services that could be developed using the EYCA infrastructure (i.e. the network, the variety of member organisations and non-organised young cardholders) to refugees;
- Interactive workshop on youth policies and mapping the relevant actors for the topic of the seminar, respectively how EYCA and its member organisations can work with each of them, at different levels of decision-making;
- 'World-Café' method - used to gather all participants' contribution on topics related to youth programmes, youth work and youth policies, as well as recommendations for EYCA members to consider in their work for social inclusion of refugees;
- Concrete examples of good practices in fostering social and economic inclusion for young refugees in their host environments.

The seminar brought together participants with a variety of profiles, thus the diversity of solutions, ideas and proposals enriched the event. Among attendees, we mention:

- Youth workers that deal directly with integration of young refugees in various communities of Southern Europe;

Partial Agreement Report 2016

- Representatives of youth structures and youth NGOs that work at policy level;
- Government representatives of countries that received a massive influx of young refugees;
- Representatives of European organisations;
- Youth workers with a refugee background

2.Organisers of the Seminar

- Partial Agreement on Youth Mobility through the Youth Card of the Council of Europe
- European Youth Card Association (EYCA)

Cooperating Partners

- Croatian Youth Hostel Association

The objectives of the seminar included:

1. Understanding better the phenomena of social exclusion for young people with immigrant and refugee background, with a focus on Western Balkans region;
2. Sharing various models of best practices used in youth work with the purpose of linking them with the services provided by the EYCA members;
3. Engaging with young immigrants and refugees in Western Balkans region and finding out their specific needs;
4. Making policy recommendations to foster social inclusion of young immigrants and refugees across Europe.

EYCA Board Member, Mrs. Gazela Pudar Drasko gave a welcome introduction on behalf of the organisation. She highlighted the importance of EYCA and CoE cooperation in supporting the positive aspect of mobility and in working together for youth social, economic and cultural inclusion.

Advisory Council on Youth (AC) representative, Mr. Valentin Dupouey presented the mechanisms of youth participation in the decision making process of Council of Europe and the EU – CoE Partnership on Youth. He delivered a comprehensive presentation on the priority topics of AC and detailed on the young refugees inclusion work plan.

On behalf of the National Youth Council, Mr. Karlo Krlaj delivered a presentation on the work the organisation is doing to support the inclusion or transition of young refugees in Croatia, both at programming and policy level. In his speech, he focused on the non-formal methodology the Council is using to work with the young refugees as well as the advocacy processes to include youth refugees' needs as a priority in national and European youth policies.

Keynote Speaker: Mr. Mohammed Al-Saud - a Syrian activist, journalist and campaigner. Mohammed is a political refugee in Sweden and has been involved in the democratization process and youth work in other MENA countries especially Jordan, Tunisia and Turkey. Mohammed has been working for the past 4 years for a more free and democratic Syria, launching grassroots youth initiatives, training nonviolent activists and working in strategic planning and consultancy in media.

During his speech, he offered both a personal and professional perspective on what it means to be a refugee in Europe. He gave glimpses on how to use youth work methods for advancing non-discrimination and democratic values in communities where young refugees are based. He offered the examples of methodology used at The Young Republic, mainly based on 'GAMIFICATION', to create mutual understanding, empathy and tolerance in communities where refugees live.

Good practice examples

Lunch offered by *The Taste of Home* - a local initiative and example of good practice to integrate young refugees and immigrants in the social and economic life of their communities and foster inter-cultural understanding. The entrepreneurial initiative consists of creating a catering small company where young refugees cook and deliver their traditional food, mainly African receipts. In this way, the Taste of Home

Partial Agreement Report 2016

company creates jobs for young refugees, encourages them to promote their culture through food and offers opportunities for young refugees to interact with their hosting communities.

Other examples of good practices offered by participants referred to:

- EYC in Greece: 1 Euro from every card sold goes to Doctors of the World initiative which deals with refugee issues;
- Creation of Facebook groups of refugees in different communities to ease the communication
- Building initiatives on existing infrastructure: schools, churches, involving all actors of a community
- Use board games and non-formal methods in classroom in order to raise awareness on different topics related to migration and intercultural understanding

Young immigrants & refugees – friendly public policies: based on the above-mentioned questions, the participants of this workshop discussed how they / their organisations and institutions can contribute to create better, more inclusive youth policies that would address the new realities in Europe. Results of the workshop include:

- Participatory process of young refugees in creating the youth public policies: do not create policies for them, but WITH them;
- Make participation in decision making process easier for young refugees by eliminating bureaucratic barriers;
- Conduct research and needs assessment of young refugees → create evidence-based youth policies for them;
- Have a realistic and feasible implementation plan;
- Policy papers should be strategic and based on facts, synchronise knowledge from civil society and public institutions;
- Policies should embed the recognition of human rights values;
- The process should be transparent and cross-sectorial;
- Young refugees should be included in all stages of the policies: creation, implementation, monitoring & evaluation.

Main challenges identified:

- From a social inclusion and participatory perspective, main challenges are: language barriers, delivering the correct, unbiased information and finding the common ground;
- The feeling of frustration of young refugees and their limited access to basic resources;
- Lack of information;
- Lack of strategy on this topic (especially for NGOs);
- Specific skills that are needed for youth workers;
- To address the situation as a complex process that should be reflected in the policies: for short and long term situations;
- The need to address and educate the locals;
- The bias of mass media;
- Lack of specific curricula in schools, both for refugees and for locals.

Recommendations include:

- Creating training opportunities for youth workers to develop specific skills and foster social inclusion of young refugees. In this respect, a public budget should be allocated as part of implementing local youth policies;
- Creating a network of youth Ambassadors among the refugees to stimulate their participation in community;
- Developing training materials and resources for formal education to raise awareness and prepare young people to cope with a multicultural society;
- Including topics related to the situation of young refugees in the civic education curricula.

Youth work and access to youth services for immigrants & refugees – based on the above-mentioned questions, participants discussed how they could improve methodology or create programmes in support for young refugees. Recommendations of the workshop include:

Partial Agreement Report 2016

- Assess the real needs of young refugees before developing services for them;
- Be aware that it is a two-ways learning process, both for locals and for young refugees;
- Use detached youth work;
- Develop programmes in schools and in disadvantaged environments, e.g. in prisons, and ensure youth role models.

During the second day, participants focused on future possible collaboration opportunities. Using the 'World café' method, each participant discussed the following topics (results included below):

a) Projects & Activities:

- Develop a community mapping complex process
- Start exchanging information and resources on the topic among participating organisation
- Create cross-advertising campaigns between continents
- Create partnerships between countries using specific non-formal education projects
- Create opportunities for EVS programmes in refugee camps
- Co-create the fundraising campaigns

b) Future cooperation at youth policy level

- Organize youth budgets so as to develop programmes and activities that would foster social and economic inclusion of young refugees;
- Identify actors that should be involved: young refugees, youth workers, NGO representatives, EU institutions, universities and schools
- Priorities that should be addressed in youth policies: social inclusion, inter-cultural dialogue, volunteering.
- Establish measurable indicators and realistic action-plans.

c) How to effectively use the European Youth Card for social inclusion of young refugees

- Create a discussion forum where we share the initiatives taken
- Give the card for free to young refugees and immigrants
- Develop a campaign among EYCA member organisations to get actively involved in aid for refugees;
- Donate a % sales of the card for projects that support young refugees
- Organise fund-raising events related to already planned EYCA events
- Create raising awareness campaigns on this topic among the 6 million card-holders
- Organise youth-friendly events that promote inter-cultural learning (e.g. music festivals);
- Use the EYC to facilitate access for free to basic services for young refugees, such as transportation, job searching services etc.

5. Evaluation

EYCA distributed an evaluation form among participants to gather feedback on content and logistics of the seminar. Participants were requested to evaluate a series aspects by using a mark from 1 – not useful/important/ good to 5 – very useful /important / well.

On average, participants rated *the relevance of the topic and the input brought by keynote speaker and good practices models* with grade 4 out of 5, thus appreciating the added value that the event had for their daily (youth) work.

The *workshops* were rated, on average, with grade 4 out 5 for their usefulness and outcomes, thus participants appreciating both the methodology and the potential of following-up by implementing the recommendations resulted.

From a *logistical perspective*, more than half of the participants mentioned they were very satisfied with the venue, accommodation, transportation and responsiveness of the organisers.

List of Participants

Partial Agreement Report 2016

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Partial Agreement Report 2016

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2. Commissioning generation and dissemination of knowledge relating to social inclusion

EYCA was present in different in several meetings during 2016.

European Education, Training and Youth Forum 2016 - Brussels, 20-21 October 2016:

- Debates on New Skills agenda, VET and recognition/validation of non-formal education
- Full report of the event: goo.gl/iWHxas

Consultation on Rethinking Education - Brussels, 11 October 2016

World Forum Democracy 2016 - Strasbourg, 7-9 November 2016

- Debates on education for participatory democracy
- Connected with new president of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities
- Report here: <https://goo.gl/0Av3yx>

Launching Digital Skills and Jobs Coalition - Brussels, 1st December 2016

- Rebates related to youth employment and new skills agenda

Launching European Solidarity Corps - Brussels, 7th December 2016

3. Participating in meetings and events to support the development of youth information across Europe

• April and October 2016: NHSM Follow-Up Group Meeting Strasbourg

EYCA participated and deliver a presentation in the 8th NHSM Follow-up Group meeting. As a direct result of this meeting EYCA member in Hungary has made a strategic partnership with the Hungarian No Hate speech campaign. To promote the campaign they are going share and communicate all the events and all the initiatives of them to more than 1.5 million cardholders - from elementary schools up to universities and our discount partners.

• June and November 2016: Steering Group of the European Platform on Learning Mobility, Paris and Bonn.

The Main outcomes of the meeting were:

- The European Quality Charter on Learning Mobility in the Youth Field was adopted by the SG. Next steps: the introduction to be developed and Charter to be launch early 2017. A set of indicators to be developed during 2017, preferably by the biannual EPLM conference;
- The Biannual EPLM Conference to be hosted by French NA on 20-22 November 2017 (TBC) in Bordeaux or Paris;
- The Concept of the conference was designed and developed during the meeting;
- Next SG meeting: April 2017.

• February and December 2016: Meeting with the Erasmus Student Network, Brussels

Erasmus Student Network (ESN) is a non-profit international student organisation. There are 250.000 members from 424 local sections in 36 countries working on a volunteer basis in higher education

Partial Agreement Report 2016

institutions under the principle of students helping students. EYCA and ENS representatives met to discuss a potential cooperation.

An ESN representative was present also in EYCA Conference that took place in Gdansk, Poland in June 2016.

- **December 2016: Meetings with Uniplaces, Lisbon**

EYCA representatives have met with Uniplaces, an organization that supports student mobility and helps students find accommodation across Europe, in order to facilitate learning mobility for young people in Europe. An agreement is now in place for European Youth Cardholders to enjoy a discount on Uniplaces services.

- **ERYICA and EURODESK**

Meetings of the three networks Directors were conducted on a regular basis. EYCA was a partner to an ERYICA event marking the organisation's 30th anniversary. The seminar took place in Finland, from April 20 to 21, 2016 and was focused on 'Challenges and Opportunities of Youth Information and Counselling in a Digital Era'.

EYCA representatives attended both the ERYICA Annual Conference and the Eurodesk Annual Conference. Both organisations were invited to and attended the EYCA Annual Conference that took place in Gdansk, Poland in June 2016.

- **March and September 2015: EU Youth Conferences in Amsterdam and Kosice**

EYCA attended the two EU conferences that took place in 2016 as part of its work to support the EU Structured Dialogue with young people.

All of the above mentioned youth organisations are natural partners for EYCA in the field of youth policy as well as volunteering/active citizenship/youth information projects. EYCA is looking into possible joint projects and/or co-branded cards or cooperation on national level by member organisations.

IV. POLICY APPROACHES AND INSTRUMENTS BENEFITING YOUNG PEOPLE AND CHILDREN

1. Commissioning technology infrastructure

To support the operation of the common cardholders database (CCDB). In order to increase the database with additional member organisations, a CCDB plan divided in 3 phases was created by the EYCA Office with the goal to have as much as possible European Youth Cards in this system by the end of 2016.

Program has been implemented and right now we have more than 3 millions cards on this system.

2. Travel board and lodging associated with negotiating with potential PA members

- PA Promotional Seminar In Sitges Barcelona. Spain. Please see report here.

The PA seminar '30 years implementing youth policies' was part of the 2016 programme of activities of the Council of Europe Partial Agreement on Youth Mobility through the Youth Card. The main objectives of the seminar were:

1. To promote the European Youth Card as a tool for policy development and implementation, at local, national and European levels, especially towards Government representatives;
2. To encourage Governments who did not sign the Partial Agreement on Youth Mobility to do so and mainstream 'youth mobility' as a priority in their public policies;

Partial Agreement Report 2016

3. To share good practices on how the EYC 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.

This Partial Agreement's promotional seminar It 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 mainly:

- Representatives of Governments working to develop and implement national youth policies and being interested to connect it with the European dimension;
- Representatives of the Council of Europe and Advisory Council on Youth;
- EYCA Board members;
- Representatives of EYCA member organisations;
- Local public authorities of Sitges and youth workers who implement directly the European Youth Card.

From a methodological perspective, the seminar combined a variety of formal and non-formal, as well as very practical, ways of learning, networking and understanding the potential of the European Youth Card:

- Formal meetings with representatives of local public authorities;
- Presentations on models of implementing the European Youth Card in various countries and how it is used as a tool to implement policies and provide services to young people;
- Practical visit at the local Youth Centre in Sitges to discuss with youth workers and understand directly how to implement the card at local level.

Organisers of the seminar:

- Partial Agreement on Youth Mobility through the Youth Card of the Council of Europe
- European Youth Card Association (EYCA)

Cooperating Partners

- Agència Catalana de la Joventut - EYCA member organisation in Catalonia, Spain
- Generalitat de Catalunya, Spain
- Municipality of Sitges, Barcelona

Carnet Jove de Catalunya is one of the most successful organizations in Spain and also in Europe developing the European Youth Card program. More than half a million young people in Catalonia have the EYC and access to all the services that are associated with the card.

Also the Catalan government uses this program as a tool to implement different youth policies, and to communicate with young people, bringing an important social aspect to the develop of the card, so this model is very good example of how local, regional or national governments can use the European Youth Card to promote their programs and to empower young people.

Summary of the presentations

Agencia Catalana de la Joventut (Spain)

- The European Youth Card is used as a tool by the local governments and youth centres to implement and develop local youth policies;
- The youth sector is a competence delegated at regional level, therefore each CCAA in Spain is responsible for developing youth laws and strategies;
- Youth Law of Catalonia (2010) recognises the main role of youth workers and it's a result of consultations with young people;
- **550.000** cardholders in 2016 and 3.553 companies collaborate with the Youth Card offering more that 8.117 benefits.
- 49.488 cardholders participating in different calls, registered in the Connected program (to stimulate youth employment)

Partial Agreement Report 2016

Cartao Jovem – MOVIOJovem (Portugal)

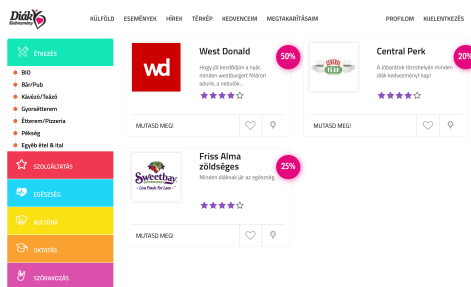
- **Mission – To promote youth mobility with a social, educational and cultural scope**
- Manages the European youth card and youth hostels
- The main goal is to promote mobility and access to products and services in leisure, culture, entertainment, sports, new technologies, among others, in a non-exclusivity logic and in special conditions to cardholders, ages 12 to 30 years old.
- In Portugal there are 166.000 cardholders, that can benefit from almost 8.000 advantages, together with the all the benefits of the European youth card.



Link to the promotional video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hHaTsyLOMc8>

Diakkedvezmény - HOOK (Hungary)

- **1.3 million students** in Hungary receive the European Youth Card for free
- **Educational Authority of Hungary** is the EYCA member organisation, implementing the programme with the support of **HÖÖK, the national student organisation**
- The goal is to build the youth card into a tool that supports and educates young people in various areas:
 - Developing their financial skills
 - Becoming more mobile and internationally involved
 - Being an active member of their community
- **This is achieved by building a forward-looking, sustainable and transparent structure.**
- A free card: equal opportunities for all students



Young Scot (Scotland, United Kingdom)

- The youth card – a tool for delivering youth policies
- Young Scot is the national youth information and citizenship charity for Scotland.
- Providing young people aged 11-26 with information, ideas and access to opportunities – to support their to make meaning of their lives as they grow up and face transitions.
- 620 k cardholders

Partial Agreement Report 2016

- The card offers benefits and represents a tool in: Smart-travel, Digital public services, Building Safer Communities, Developing the Young Workforce, Co-production and Community Empowerment

During the second part of the day, guests and participants had the chance to visit the local Youth Centre in Sitges and to interact directly with the youth workers that provide the European Youth Card. Participants were offered a presentation on how the Youth Card is used to:

- inform young people about various community opportunities they have in areas like leisure, art, volunteering, studies, mobility etc.;
- identify those young people who are at risk of becoming marginalised, because of school or family issues, and youth workers take the opportunity to actually develop a trust relationship with them and keep them engaged citizens and offer professional counselling;
- attract young people to spend their free time at the youth centre and build social, civic skills while preventing at risk behaviours such as juvenile delinquency, drug dependency and promoting a healthy lifestyle.

As a conclusion, the seminar offered the space for government representatives and participants to explore various ways in which the European Youth Card can be used as a tool to empower young people to grow into autonomous, self-confident, responsible and active citizens, with access to community services, mobility and participation opportunities.

List of participants

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Partial Agreement Report 2016

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- Germany See section I of this report.
- Georgia: See section I of this report.
- France: See section I of this report.
- Following the presentation that took place in Strasbourg during the PA Board of Coordination, a meeting to explore possible ways of collaboration between EYCA and the Council of Europe Cultural Routes was agreed and took place on January 14th 2016. EYCA was also present and deliver a presentation in the Annual Advisory Forum on the Council of Europe Cultural Routes that took place in October 2016 in Vilnius Lithuania. Some ways of collaboration were established and it was explored the possibility of working together on some projects.

As a result of this meeting a possible collaboration has started with some institutions.

A possible signing a Memorandum of Understanding in order to institutionalize our collaboration at the political level is also in the next months agenda.