

COUNCIL OF EUROPE

COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS

RECOMMENDATION No. R (95) 18

OF THE COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS TO MEMBER STATES ON YOUTH MOBILITY

*(Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 12 October 1995
at the 545th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies)*

The Committee of Ministers, under the terms of Article 15.b of the Statute of the Council of Europe,

Considering that an increase in the mobility of young people is an essential means by which to encourage personal enrichment and individual autonomy, as well as to promote peace and understanding between peoples, combat xenophobia and racism, and create awareness of a European cultural identity;

Believing that effect should be given to the relevant provisions on youth mobility as adopted by the Conferences of European Ministers responsible for Youth in Lisbon (1990) and Vienna (1993);

Conscious of the need to encourage and facilitate youth mobility and especially to promote mobility projects within a multicultural Europe;

Judging that a policy promoting youth mobility requires concerted action at European level, with the aim of gradually eliminating obstacles to mobility,

Recommends that governments of member states take all appropriate steps to encourage and facilitate the mobility of young people in Europe and, initially, within the framework of their respective legal and financial provisions and practices, promote the implementation of the provisions contained in the appendix to this recommendation;

Instructs the Secretary General to transmit this recommendation to the states parties to the European Cultural Convention which are not members of the Council of Europe.

Appendix to Recommendation No. R (95) 18

1. *Scope and definitions*

1.1 For the purposes of this recommendation:

a. The term "mobility project" describes any stay in another European country, the objectives of which are educational, and which promotes international understanding via intercultural learning for a duration of between one week and three months, or longer if so agreed between the parties, such as voluntary service. Mobility projects are collective projects, notably in the field of youth exchanges organised in one or several host countries for the purposes of voluntary activities, such as training, cultural, linguistic, artistic or sporting activities, or with a view to carrying out socio-cultural projects, environmental and development aid programmes.

b. The term "young people" covers young people under twenty-five years of age who are living in the territory of a member state or a state party to the European Cultural Convention and who travel to another state's territory within the framework of a mobility project;

1.2. This recommendation does not apply to persons under the age of twenty-five who travel as "au pairs" according to the European Agreement on "au pair" placements, open for signature by member states in Strasbourg on 24 November 1969.

2. *Mobility projects*

A mobility project has a European dimension and implies:

- i. a precise definition of the objectives of the participants and the organising body;
- ii. a precise indication of the length of the stay;
- iii. a definition of the partners in the host state, the participants and the organising institution;
- iv. an awareness of the host state's distinctive characteristics and of the challenges posed by intercultural meetings;
- v. satisfactory provision for reception and appropriate accommodation which encourage encounters and exchanges;
- vi. formal and informal contact with the local population as well as a time-table and educational methods which facilitate understanding of the host state's culture;
- vii. an opportunity, towards the end of the project, for participants to assess their experiences and their reflections, as well as evaluate the project as a whole with the help of indicators which are connected to the objectives set.

3. *Rights and advantages granted by host states*

Host states facilitate access for visiting young people to the same rights and advantages as those provided for their young residents, such as:

- i. information;
- ii. access to cultural, social, leisure and sporting activities;
- iii. reductions for transport and other services;
- iv. prompt rendering of medical and other assistance in emergencies, for as long as repatriation may not reasonably be required.

Host states endeavour to facilitate the return of young people when this is requested by the social or health authorities.

4. *Rights and advantages granted by the state of residence*

The state of residence guarantees young people in approved mobility projects, that meet the criteria set out in paragraph 2, the payment abroad of any benefits due, in accordance with the terms of the national legislation of the state of residence, and any applicable bilateral or multilateral agreements.

Sickness, maternity, accident (relating to voluntary or other activities), invalidity, death and civil liability risks are covered either in accordance with the national social security legislation or by means of bilateral or multilateral agreements in force between the states concerned or, failing that, by means of personal insurance arranged and paid for by the person concerned or on his or her behalf.

5. *Rights granted by all states*

States grant young people participating in a mobility project, as defined in paragraph 2, the right to a stay complying with the objectives stated in the project and specified at the time of its approval in accordance with the provisions in paragraph 9.

6. *Support measures*

States implement and/or support youth mobility, *inter alia*, by means of scholarships, exchange programmes involving trainers and training programmes intended for organisers, leaders of youth organisations and youth workers, information and counselling personnel, and young people themselves.

Within the framework of mobility projects, states encourage, in particular, the organisation of appropriate language courses where necessary.

7. Special attention to disadvantaged young people

States encourage on a priority basis the mobility projects of disadvantaged young people, including marginalised and disabled young people, with the co-operation of youth organisations and the services responsible for activities with these young people.

Specific attention is also given to young people living in economically depressed or peripheral regions.

8. Administrative formalities

Host states endeavour to facilitate young people's administrative formalities and to promote the attainment of the objectives specified in their project.

9. Co-operation bodies

Each state establishes, according to its own procedure, the necessary co-operation bodies, including at ministerial or interministerial level, with responsibility for implementing this recommendation and approving the mobility projects to be carried out on its territory in accordance with the provisions in paragraphs 1.1.a, 2, 5, 6 and 7.

Each state informs the Secretary General of the names and addresses of the co-operation bodies established so that the Secretary General can inform the other states.

10. Co-operation with youth organisations

States encourage the activities of youth organisations in the field of youth mobility, especially those which are organised with the co-operation of public and private bodies.

To this end, states back the initiatives of young people and their organisations and associate them with the preparation of mobility programmes on local, national and European levels.

11. Information

a. The co-operation bodies promote, in collaboration with young people and youth organisations, the creation and development of appropriate information and counselling services which could help young people in building, implementing and assessing mobility projects.

b. The co-operation bodies run the required databases on the youth mobility projects submitted to them. The aim of these databases is to permit the evaluation of youth mobility and its effects in areas such as knowledge of languages, training and employment following a stay abroad within the framework of a mobility project.

c. States promote, with the collaboration of the authorities responsible for health, the circulation among young people of all useful information for the prevention of accidents and illnesses.

d. States promote the co-ordination of all information on youth mobility at European level.

12. Bilateral and multilateral agreements

States are invited to negotiate bilateral and multilateral agreements on mobility and youth exchanges, in accordance with the principles set forth in the present recommendation in order to facilitate its implementation.