



AP/Carte-J (2020) PV 44¹

Partial Agreement on Youth Mobility through the Youth Card

44th meeting of the Board of Co-ordination

**Tuesday, 6 October 2020
10.00 – 11.30**

ON-LINE

Blujeans Link <https://bluejeans.com/750291951>

REPORT

1. Welcome and opening of the meeting

The meeting was opened by the secretariat in view of the forthcoming elections of the Chair and Vice-Chair. The meeting took place on-line and gathered the necessary quorum. A tour of introductions took place. The list of participants is available in the Appendix.

2. Adoption of the agenda

AP/Carte-J(2020)OJ44

The Board of Co-ordination adopted the agenda of its 44th meeting as it appears in document AP/Carte-J(2020)OJ44.

3. Election of the Chair and the Vice-Chair for the current meeting and for 2021

According to the Resolution ResAP(2003)1 instituting the Partial Agreement on Youth Mobility through the Youth Card, the position of the Chair in 2020 went to a governmental representative and the position of the Vice-Chair – to a representative of EYCA. In 2021, an EYCA representative should become a Chair and a governmental representative – a Vice-Chair.

¹ There was no meeting of the Board of Co-ordination in the framework of on-line statutory meetings of the youth sector. The update on the programme and budget has been circulated in written instead.

At its meeting on 14 October 2019, the Board did not proceed with the elections for 2020 because as of 1 January 2020 the governmental side was to be almost entirely renewed² (six members out of eight), thus it seemed fair to wait for the next Board's meeting in March 2020 to elect the Chair and the Vice-Chair. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, that meeting did not take place and was replaced by written up-dates as regards the EYCA member organisations' response to the Covid-19 situation and the revision of the Partial Agreement's work programme and budgetary apportioning.

Thus, the elections for 2020 took place at the current meeting. Jose Sousa (Portugal) was elected Vice-Chair from the EYCA side. In the absence of candidates from the governmental side for the post of the Chair 2020, the Vice-Chair chaired the current meeting.

Given that the mandate of the current Board of Co-ordination was for a two-year term (2020-2021), and in line with practice of the Council of Europe steering committees, the Board proceeded with the elections for the year 2021: Jose Sousa (EYCA) was elected Chair and Riccardo Venturini (CDEJ, San Marino) Vice-Chair.

Nominations, with the agreement of the Board, took place by acclamation, in line with the previous practice.

4. Adoption of the report of the 43rd meeting of the Board of Co-ordination

AP/Carte-J (2019)PV43

The Board of Co-ordination adopted the report of its 43rd meeting as it appears in document AP/Carte-J(2019)PV43.

5. Implementation of the programme of activities 2020, including

Best Practices of Youth Services in times of Covid-19

AP/Carte-J(2020)1; link <https://www.coe.int/en/web/youth/-/gp-eyca-members>

The EYCA Director informed the Board on the implementation of the programme of activities 2020, recalling the written information on the adaptation of the programme and budgetary apportioning circulated previously to the Partial Agreement members and also available in the reference document *AP/Carte-J(2020)1*. The Director mentioned separate surveys on needs and wishes of the governmental authorities responsible for youth affairs conducted among Partial Agreement members and non-members and encouraged the Board members who did not reply yet to do so. That would help in the preparation of future work programmes of the Partial Agreements.

In particular, the director dwelled on the preparations of the seminar “**New challenges and opportunities for innovative youth services. The role of the European Youth Card in promoting the rights of young people in post-covid era**” in the framework of the Greek Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers (5-6 November 2020). The representative of the Youth and Lifelong Learning Foundation of the Greek Ministry of Education responsible for the Youth Card in Greece intervened on the latter subject with additional and most recent information. He confirmed Greece's intention to join the Partial Agreement on Youth Mobility on this occasion.

² The Ministers' Deputies renewed the Board of Co-ordination for 2020-2021 at their 1363rd meeting on 11 December 2019.

In reaction to the presentation of the EYCA member organisations' reaction to the Covid-19 situation, the Board agreed that sharing of good practices was extremely important as there was an immediate imperative to answer to the needs of young people during this difficult time. It was felt that despite the initial difficulties globally everyone in the youth services sector managed to adjust to the new reality and moved their services, offers and functioning on-line. This time was used beneficially to revise and up-date technical and communication possibilities.

In reply to a question, the EYCA Director confirmed that EYCA was invited to take part in the 3rd European Youth Convention to take place on-line in the framework of the joint German Chairmanship of the Council of Europe and EY Presidency in early December 2020. There might be an opportunity to present a joint EYCA/ERYICA/Eurodesk atelier on good practices during the event.

6. Programme of activities 2021 – exchange of views

AP/Carte-J (2020)2

At its 41st meeting (15 October 2018), the Board of Co-ordination agreed that member states and EYCA member organisations would be asked to share their wishes for the type of activities and themes of interest which would be developed accordingly within the budget of the Partial Agreement.

At its 42nd meeting, an exchange of views was held at which Board's member states welcomed the on-going diversification of the work programme of the Partial Agreement and suggested to continue in this direction. As an example, trainings for civil servants and trainings for trainers were mentioned. As regards themes for the future seminars and/or activities, intercultural learning, sports, prevention of sexual abuse, mental health issues were mentioned. It was agreed that a survey/questionnaire would be prepared for the attention of the Partial Agreement's member states in order to give them more opportunities to voice subjects which were important for their countries' youth policymaking.

During the summer 2020, short questionnaires were sent to the Partial Agreement member states, non-member states and EYCA member organisations as part of the work programme of 2020 (see above). EYCA Director would share some insights from them that influenced the proposals for the work programme of 2021. He cautioned that in present circumstances it was difficult to plan in advance and that in case the pandemic would continue, all activities would need to be moved on-line (seminars could become webinars) or replaced by other types of work (new publications, translations, branding, etc.). The 50/50 activity might be again postponed.

The Board approved the programme of activities for 2021, subject to the Covid-19 situation, as it appears in reference document *AP/Carte-J (2020)2*.

7. Recent and forthcoming developments in EYCA – oral report, in particular

The EYCA Director updated the Board of Co-ordination on the recent and forthcoming developments in EYCA. He again underlined a very **quick response** by EYCA members **to the Covid-19 situation** which pushed for digitalisation of the youth card and of the services offered among members.

The EYCA General Assembly would take place on-line on 16-18 October 2020 with elections for the Presidency and the Board. The new **EYCA Strategy for 2021-2025** would be adopted at this meeting and much of its focus would be dedicated to the co-operation with the Council of Europe. In addition, the month of October would be devoted to EYCA regional meetings.

Four New member organisations joined EYCA. Considering the difficult year, this was an excellent development, bringing EYCA membership to over 40 organisations with 7,2 million cardholders.

A **“Letter of Intent”** on cooperation between the Secretariat of the **Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe (EPA)**, **Eurail** and the **European Youth Card Association (EYCA)** was signed by the Director-General of Democracy Mrs Snežana Samardžić-Marković, on behalf of the Secretary-General of the Council of Europe, Eurail General Manager Mr Carlo Boselli and EYCA Director Mr Manel Sánchez, which entered into force on 19 August 2020, in order to promote sustainable mobility across Europe, support the discovery of the rich and diverse heritage of Europe, foster the creation of a strong community of young travellers who support cultural diversity, intercultural learning and mutual exchanges across borders.

The “Letter of Intent” was an important step forward to establish a collaborative partnership in areas of shared interest and, among other, it foresees conducting regular consultations, sharing practice and expertise, exchanging information to the visibility of the partner institutions.

This partnership had already resulted in the European Youth Card Special Edition on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe. This special edition was free and valid for one year. The card offered hundreds of discounts for activities on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe in seven countries: Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia and Slovenia.

This special edition of the European Youth Card was born from a cooperation between the European Youth Card Association and Routes4U. The latter was a joint programme between the Council of Europe and the European Union. Routes4U aimed at fostering regional development through the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe in accordance with the macro-regional strategies of the European Union. These strategies allowed countries located in the same region to jointly tackle and find solutions to problems or to better use the potential they have in common. The European Youth Card Special Edition on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe covered partially the area of the European Union Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR).

Applications for the **2nd Edition of the EYCA Youth Panel** were open till 30 November 2020. The EYCA Youth Panel was the idea put forward by a group of young people who came together at the EYCA Annual Conference in Belgrade (Serbia) in 2017. They made a recommendation to the EYCA Board that cardholders should have a stronger voice when European Youth Card programmes and services were designed.

The EYCA Youth Panel was composed of 10 young people, aged 18 to 29, selected from among European Youth Cardholders for a two-year mandate. They were asked to provide insights into the challenges, experiences and priorities of young Europeans today. They also acted as Youth Ambassadors for the European Youth Card – promoting the programmes and opportunities offered to their friends and peers. They could also receive EYCA support to organise activities in their community relating to issues important to young people. EYCA estimated to reach over 14 000 young people with this project in 2021.

The Board of Co-ordination congratulated EYCA with an impressive amount of achievements, supported co-operation between EYCA together with the Partial Agreement on Youth Mobility with other Council of Europe Partial Agreements in order to diversify the activities, broaden the vision, increase visibility and attract new card-holders.

8. Tour de table on national developments in the field of youth mobility and youth card schemes: link to the table <https://www.coe.int/en/web/youth/youth-mobility>

The Board of Co-ordination proceeded with the tour de table on recent developments in the field of youth mobility as a governmental policy or as developments in the national youth card schemes. All speakers taking the floor mentioned that they had to adapt their ambitious plans to the Covid-19 situation and re-think their functioning, services and offers. It was also time to conduct research, renovate as regards new technical solutions and look for new partners.

Various national initiatives were cited like linking the national youth card with the identity card, awarding of a quality label to the youth card, launching a website dedicated to the national youth card particularly in relation to the Covid-19 situation (health recommendations, guides and guidelines, activities practised at home and trainings, chats, webinars on-line), adapting the youth card to purchases on-line, acting as a special channel for youngsters to pass information to them, addressing mental health issues affecting young people, conducting research on the effects of pandemic on young people, linking the youth card to transport mobility, etc.

It was mentioned that youth workers needed support from the governments in these difficult times. Allianssi, the Finnish national youth service, was planning to organise a big conference for them in May 2021.

The Spanish representative confirmed Spain's intention to join the Partial Agreement once the issue of the national budget was solved, hopefully at the start of next year, given that currently the country was functioning on the basis of the 2018 budget. The Russian representative equally informed the Board of the interest of the Russian federation to join the Partial Agreement; for this purpose, consultations were held by the Russian MFA with European Youth Card member organisations for better knowledge and understanding of the programme. The representatives of the Russian Federal Agency for Youth Affairs stated that they support a possible accession of the Russian federation to the Partial Agreement and were open and available to assist the Russian Union of Youth to develop further the youth card scheme in Russia.

The Chair and the CCJ representative thanked the Board for such an interesting and intensive exchange of views. The Chair and the EYCA Director thanked Greece, Russian Federation and Spain for their interest and intention to join the Partial Agreement on Youth Mobility.

9. Any other business

None

10. Date and place of the next meeting ³

³ In the framework of the youth sector's statutory bodies in Strasbourg in March 2021 subject to the Covid-19 situation.

APPENDIX

Governmental representatives

1. Ms. Tamara Torosyan (CDEJ, **Armenia**) - absent
2. Mr. Markus Wolf (CDEJ, **Austria**)
3. Ms. Sarah Spiteri (replacement for Miriam Teuma, CDEJ, **Malta**)
4. Ms. Marcella Van Derkloet (CDEJ, **Netherlands**) – apologised for absence
5. Mr. Jorge Orlando (CDEJ, **Portugal**)
6. Mr. Riccardo Venturini (CDEJ, **San Marino**)
7. Mr. Zorko Skvor (CDEJ, **Slovenia**) – apologised for absence
8. Mr. Marcel Marin (CDEJ, **Republic of Moldova**)

EYCA representatives

- Mr. Jose Sousa (**Portugal**)
- Mr. Jarkko Lehtikoinen (**Finland**)
- Mr. Babis Papaioniou (**Greece**)
- Mr. Ralph Olk (**Germany**)
- Ms. Ioulia Kalinkina (**Russian Federation**)
- Mr. David Lafuente (**Spain**)
- Mr. Manel Sanchez, director, EYCA Office

CCJ representative

- Ms. Lydia Siapardani (Youth Social Rights Network)

Guests

- Mr. Antony Francome (CDEJ, Andorra)
- Ms. Tatiana Seliverstova, Head of International Division, Federal Agency for Youth Affairs, **RF**
- Mr. Sergey Orlov, responsible for European co-operation, International Division, Federal Agency of Youth Affairs, **RF**

Secretariat

- Ms. Natalja Turenne, Youth Policy Division, Youth Department, Council of Europe