



AP/Carte-J(2024)PV52

Partial Agreement on Youth Mobility through the Youth Card 52nd meeting of the Board of Co-ordination

**Tuesday 12 November 2024
ON-LINE**

REPORT

1. Welcome and opening of the meeting

The meeting was opened by Liliya Elenkova, Chair of the Board of Co-ordination for 2024. The participants were invited to introduce themselves. The EYCA President highlighted a new way of EYCA representation to the Board of Co-ordination: it would be five Governing Board's members representing five regional groups, plus EYCA President and EYCA Director plus one «ordinary» EYCA member. They would, in principle, stay for the whole duration of a mandate.

The list of participants appears in the Appendix.

2. Adoption of the agenda

[AP/Carte-J\(2024\)OJ52](#), annotated agenda

The Board of Co-ordination is invited to adopt the agenda of the current meeting as it appears in doc. AP/Carte-J(2024)OJ52.

3. Election of the Chair and Vice-Chair for 2025

In 2024 the position of the Chair was held by a governmental representative of the Board of Co-ordination and the position of the Vice-Chair – by a non-governmental one. Thus, according to the Committee of Ministers' Resolution ResAP(2003)1 instituting the Partial Agreement on Youth Mobility through the Youth Card, in 2025 the roles should be exchanged: the Chair should be elected among non-governmental representatives (EYCA) and the Vice-Chair – among governmental members. Miguel Perestrello, EYCA President, was elected the next Chair of the Board of Co-ordination and Liliya Elenkova as its Vice-Chair for 2025. As no more than one candidacy was presented for each post and no objection to these candidacies were raised, the election took place by acclamation, in line with the previous practice.

4. Adoption of the report of the 51st meeting of the Board of Co-ordination

[AP/Carte-J\(2024\)PV51](#)

The Board of Co-ordination adopted the report of its 51st meeting with a slight change in the Appendix under the update provided by the representative of Bulgaria (see doc. AP/Carte-J(2024)PV51).

5. Tour de table on national developments in the field of youth mobility and youth card schemes [Link to the table](#)

The EYCA President mentioned that from now on the Board members would present the developments of not only their country but of the region they represent. This was supported by the Chair.

Jean Paul Romegas, EYCA Board, **Group 1** (countries: Andorra, France, Portugal, Spain through its regions): he mentioned the Group met two times this year, in Andorra and in Spain. A training on communication skills was offered to the representatives of members of Group 1 in Zaragoza, Spain. The final event of the PA was hosted by a Group 1 country, Andorra, on 27 – 29 November.

Jugoslav Radovic, EYCA Board, **Group 5** (countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Kosovo, Serbia, Slovenia, Malta, Cyprus, Italy): the Group met in Cyprus in May 2024. The Group was working to advance a joint project focusing on the cultural routes within the group countries or routes less explored by young people.

Jiry Gurecki, EYCA Board, **Group 2** (countries: Bulgaria, Romania, Czech Republic, Georgia, Poland): the Group met at the end of May in Poland. Two of the Group members went on an exchange visit to a Spanish Region, as part of the Maximising Impact programme. The next important milestone for the Group was to welcome Poland as a Full Member of EYCA.

Manel Sanchez, EYCA Director, represented Groups 3 and 4, namely the countries in Central Europe (Germany, Austria, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Slovakia, Belgium) and Baltics, Nordics and the UK. Regarding **Group 3**, the EYCA members met early June in Vienna, Austria. They were working to create common joint projects and prepare for next year. Regarding **Group 4**, the newest update was welcoming new EYCA member for the territory of Estonia, as of October this year.

The table on national developments in the field of youth mobility and youth card schemes had been updated by some Partial Agreement's and EYCA members since the last Board's meeting and is available both at the restricted website and on the webpage of the Partial Agreement.

EYCA Director mentioned that EYCA was developing co-operation with RYCO and it might be a good development to bring it into co-operation with the PA on Youth Mobility in the field of youth card and youth mobility development.

The Head of the Youth Department drew the attention of the Board members to the fact that the Central European Initiative (CEI) had just become an observer to the Council of Europe's Youth Sector statutory bodies and was a possible partner for the development of the Partial Agreement's activities.

6. Expansion perspectives of the Partial Agreement – oral exchange

The EYCA Director updated the Board on the negotiations with the States which had shown interest in the Partial Agreement on Youth Mobility like Türkiye, Italy, Spain, Albania. It was highlighted that sometimes the negotiations took a long time, and sometimes accession happened in a few months. The Finnish authorities might take their country out of the PA on Youth Mobility in the framework of their overall efforts to cut costs and make savings and the Partial Agreement was only a small part of that overall tendency. The Head of the Youth Department mentioned that he was aware of the situation and had a long talk with the Permanent Representative of

Finland; he also encouraged EYCA to assist the Partial Agreement in finding ways to make it possible for Finland to continue to be member of the Partial Agreement.

7. Update on the implementation of the programme of activities 2024

The Board was updated on the implementation of the PA's programme of activities 2024, including of the preparations of the last PA seminar end of November in Andorra (Concept note "[Urban youth participation through the European Youth Card](#)"). The reports and presentations of these events are available on-line: "[Youth Ecosystems Essentials: the role of the European Youth Card in advancing ecosystems for youth empowerment](#)" (29-31 May 2024, Podgorica, Montenegro; for the Visegrad seminar's report please see below).

This item continued with an exchange of views with **Ms Meltem Önhon, Chair of the Governing Board of the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe** who presented the Board with their impressions from this year's Walk the Talk seminar in Hungary, the results of the 13th Advisory Forum on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe (25-27 September 2024, Visegrad, Hungary, and their vision and ideas for the next year's Forum in Türkiye and possible co-operation with the Partial Agreement on Youth Mobility (see report on "[Walk the Talk: Access of Rural Youth to Cultural Heritage: European Youth Card's role in promoting Cultural Routes](#)" (23-26 September 2024, Visegrad, Hungary).

The Chair also shared that during the Seminar and the Forum the need for interaction between different communities became clear. On the one hand, to strengthen intergenerational dialogue and create sustainability of the processes, on the other hand, the need for harmonization of the understanding of what youth participation was, especially in decision-making processes, was highlighted. This interaction would be very useful for the future of cultural routes with the active involvement of young people.

She said that she and her colleagues was impressed by the interest, engagement and ideas of young people, and the energy they could bring into the development of the Cultural Routes programmes. She stressed that she saw excellent opportunities for co-operation and looked forward to the next stage in 2025.

8. Strategic discussion on co-operation between the PA on Youth Mobility and other CoE Partial Agreements in line with the "youth perspective" [AP/Carte-J\(2024\)3](#)

The Council of Europe had always encouraged internal transversal co-operation, and the Reykjavik Declaration had recommended the integration of a "youth perspective" in the intergovernmental work of the Council of Europe which is also relevant for the Partial Agreements. At its two last meetings the Board of Co-ordination discussed opening up to co-operation with various CoE Partial Agreements and agreed to pursue this discussion with the aim of a meaningful result. In addition, the previous and the new strategy of the Partial Agreement's partner EYCA mentioned the same intention.

The reference document presented the Council of Europe Partial Agreements and makes comments and suggestions as to possible co-operation of the PA on Youth Mobility with them. It should be particularly high-lighted that the European Youth Card has a significantly larger dimension than only youth mobility. That's why initially and for over a decade the Partial Agreement was called the Partial Agreement on the Youth Card. The proposals of co-operation enter into the field of mobility (for example in Cultural Routes or EPAS) and/or into the field of «Access to rights» (EDQM, Pompidou, EUR-OPA, etc.).

This document invites for a first brainstorming on the subject. When preferences and priorities would be established, the youth sector's secretariat will approach the secretariat of the other Partial Agreements to sound out their interest for co-operation and their suggestions for practical implementation. The results will be shared with the Board of Co-ordination for decision-making in the next years to come.

It should be mentioned that the **EPA on Cultural Routes** of the Council of Europe has already indicated that it wishes to continue co-operation with the PA on Youth Mobility, particularly in the framework of its next annual Forum on Cultural Routes end of September – early October 2025 in Türkiye.

The secretariat updated the Board on its discussions with the representative of the **Pompidou Group (PG)**. The highlight of the current activities of the PG aiming at young people was the European Drug Prevention Prize awarded every two years to innovative projects led by young people for young people ([Prevention Prize - Pompidou Group](#)). The next Prevention Prize Award Ceremony would take place in November 2025 during the Pompidou Group's Ministerial Conference. When the new call for applications would be sent, the PG would be happy to rely on the youth sector's networks to distribute the information.

In addition, soon the Call for nomination of Jurors would be launched and it would be possible to have one/two of the Jurors from the EYCA and youth sector's side, for example a representative of the EYCA Youth Panel and a CCJ representative responsible for co-operation with EYCA and the PA on Youth Mobility.

The Pompidou Group's current priority fell on the subject of "Online gambling and gaming". Due to the extension of the Pompidou Group's mandate, it was now working with all forms of addictions, including those related to Internet. As the first step, an expert group issued a report on '[Risks and harms associated with online gaming and gambling](#)'.

Young people were no doubt one of the important vulnerable groups when it came to the use of Internet and related online activities. Thus, the Pompidou Group's secretariat had already started exploring synergies with other CoE departments in this area. During the PACE session on 25 June 2024 Pompidou Group together with the Sport Division organised a hearing on 'Addiction to sport betting'. This joint event addressed the raising threat, especially for young people, from both dimensions – sport and addictions side, thus emphasizing the need to tackle these issues in an urgent manner. It might be interesting to advance this topic further in cooperation with the PA on Youth Mobility (or in a triangular cooperation – PG-Youth Mobility -Sport).

In addition, PG had just started the implementation of a joint EU/CoE project 'Promoting the mental health of children and youth by addressing the risks of online gambling and gaming'. This two-year project focused on research, development of strategies, policies and regulations, communication and raising awareness aspects. So, there might also be some interesting outputs produced there that can be of interest to the Partial Agreement's work.

The secretariat updated the Board on the discussions at the on-line meeting between the secretariat of the **Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS)**, the secretariat of the PA on Youth Mobility and Youth Policy Division, the Board of Co-ordination's Chair Liliya Elenkova and the EYCA Director Manel Sanchez on 7 November 2024. The CoE Sports Sector, which had recently moved to DGI, possessed three Conventions in the field of sport administratively merged with the EPAS. This said, the actual work of the EPAS was grounded on the European Sports Charter, which had three main pillars: ethical, inclusive and safe sport.

Among several events in the EPAS programme in 2025, a Conference on Diversity planned in October 2025, might be a possibility for co-operation with the PA on Youth Mobility bringing a youth component in, if the event were not too streamlined. If one speaks of possible topics of interest, one could mention raising awareness and brainstorming on no-hate speech among athletes, young athletes understanding their rights, young athletes safeguarding, etc. At the previous Sports Ministers Conference (October 2024) a «speed-dating» was organised between the 30 sports associations constituting the Consultative Committee (CC) the attending youth delegates. This could inspire a future event between the CC and the PA on Youth Mobility.

The EYCA Director highlighted that the European Youth Card was a tool to spread awareness among young people about the CoE in general and could be used to raise awareness of young people of the values of the European Sports Charter, thematic workshops could indeed be organised. EYCA, through some of its member organisations, had experience in working with the sports field, with sports clubs and federations, players, coaches, referees, and sometimes fans on travel; they took part in the campaigns to promote female sports, for example.

The Chair stressed that players and fans were also travelers, inside and outside their country, they had their own way of belonging to a community, which was particularly important for young people. She brought example of her country, Bulgaria, where the authorities had started working on a way to initiate dialogue between various communities and groups of the population, as well as young people between themselves. Particularly the question was how to interact with the segregated groups of fans, which were very much closed communities of their own. They could easily become objects of manipulation, propaganda, violence, hate, disturbances, etc.: being a member of a sports club could be positive but also destructive.

The EYCA Director supported the above by saying that interesting connections could be made between young cardholders (currently over 9 mln), PA on Youth Mobility and the EPAS, particularly in terms of communication with the so-called non-organised youth. Also, the majority of young people were organised through youth sports associations and sports clubs, much less through political organisations. Indeed, inform, promote, reach out as much as possible to young people in a young-people friendly language, was a very important task. And here youth mobility was a transversal line.

The Chair also added that within the competitive high-level sports, there was no youth perspective and there was certainly a need to bring it there. Young people engaged in sports were experts and could be relied on and involved in decision-making processes. In this context, intergenerational dialogue was very important, between young athletes, coaches, administration.

A more «operational» meeting would be held following the first one on 7 November, so that an event as well as mutual representation at events could be identified.

9. Exchange of views with a member of the secretariat of one of the Council of Europe's Partial Agreements

Ms. Petra DOERR, Director, EDQM, presented the EDQM and its work (her full PowerPointPresentation is attached below) and shared her vision and ideas on possible future co-operation with the PA on Youth Mobility.

The EDQM's vision was «Together for better health, for all». EDQM strived to protect public health and promote a world in which everyone can enjoy better health, in Europe and beyond. EDQM's worked not only with its member and observer states and experts, but also with a wide range of stakeholders and beneficiaries of its activities: manufacturers of medicines, active

substances, cosmetics and food contact materials; blood, tissues & cells establishments; hospitals; healthcare professionals (pharmacists, medical doctors, practitioners, nurses, etc.).

The EDQM's mission was to contribute to public health protection by engaging with an international community of experts and stakeholders. The EDQM had long-standing expertise and experience in ensuring the quality of medicines by developing international quality standards. It currently also covered Pharmaceutical Care, Substances of Human Origin and Consumer Health. The EDQM contributed to ensuring the availability of and access to good quality and safe medicines and health products, from development to supply to patients. The EDQM executed its mission by leveraging on its member states, experts and stakeholders and by **actively embracing a culture of co-operation.**

The EDQM secretariat would be particularly interested in joint activities within its Programme on consumer health awareness-raising for young people. The PA on Youth Mobility through the Youth Card and EYCA could help raise awareness of both policy-makers (PA) and young people (EYCA) on a number of dangers to health:

- Tattoos and permanent make-up: although the use of tattoos and permanent make-up has become increasingly common, the practice still carries much risk. Cases of intradermal inks becoming microbiologically contaminated are widely documented;
- Falsified medical products, food simulants, counterfeit cosmetics offered on-line. Young people are specifically targeted by sellers of falsified medicines for body-enhancers and slimming products.

It would be interesting to develop a whole series of trainings for policy-makers, youth workers, EYCA member organisations, specialised youth NGOs on raising awareness of the above-mentioned dangers. The awareness-raising part could also apply to the Partnership with ERYICA who could be either a partner in the activities of a separate actor.

The full EDQM presentation is attached here below:



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The Board's members thanked Ms Doerr for her excellent presentation and her availability to join the Board's meeting and felt that co-operation between the EDQM, the Partial Agreement on Youth Mobility and the European Youth Card could be particularly fruitful.

10. Preparation of the programme of activities 2025 [AP/Carte-J\(2024\)5](#)

At the previous meeting of the Board of Co-ordination, it was agreed that the secretariat would launch a call to all States - members of the Partial Agreement for them to express interest to host an activity in 2025 or to voice ideas and preferences for the subjects and formats of the events to take place in 2025. The call was launched on 24 June 2024 with a deadline of 5 September 2024, a reminder was circulated on 5 August.

In the absence of response, the secretariat and EYCA has prepared a preliminary programme of activities for 2025 which includes an earlier proposal of the current Chair to proceed with an overview of the results and achievements of the Partial Agreement's activities for the last 12 years since the work programme started in 2013. The Head of the Youth Department added that this was an excellent proposal: the results and achievements of the Partial Agreement on Youth

Mobility could be shared and promoted around the Ministerial Conference on Youth in Malta in 2025.

The Board unanimously agreed that the second activity for the next year's programme would be a joint activity with the Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes linked, as proposed by the EPA Chair, to the 14th Annual Forum on Cultural Routes in Cappadocia.

As for the third activity, in the context of on-going talks with various Council of Europe Partial Agreements, the Head of the Youth Department suggested to hold an "Ideas' workshop" in the EYCS between the PA on Youth Mobility members, interested partners, stakeholders and other Partial Agreements to develop more concrete ideas on further co-operation.

The Board also welcomed that the Pompidou Drug Prevention Prize Jury would comprise one or two youth sector's representatives (CCJ/EYCA Youth Panel).

11. Recent and forthcoming developments in EYCA

The recent and forthcoming developments in EYCA are available below:

Open discussion with Anna Strolenberg, MEP and member of the Agriculture and Rural Development Committee, and Babis Papaioannou, Policy Officer for Youth Policy and Programmes at the European Commission **on rural youth** took place on 28 October 2024 in Brussels. While the struggles related to housing and intergenerational mixing are apparent in both rural and urban areas, reliable transport systems, accessible public infrastructure and cultural extra-curricular activities are just some of the more widespread obstacles young people face in remote areas. Policy proposals by the EU Hungarian Presidency, the Rural Pact of the European Commission, and ongoing research by the Council of Europe and the preparation by the latter of a Committee of Ministers Recommendation to member States on Rural Youth, have put a clear emphasis on the opportunities and needs linked to young people in rural areas. This discussion touched on key questions which remain.

Rural Youth Project – 5 to-do's to boost rural youth: In this light, the EYCA Youth Panel launched their Rural Youth Project, to engage with and learn from young people in remote areas. For more than a year, the EYCA Youth Panel have been running the *Rural Youth Project*, aiming to explore young people's desires, challenges and opportunities in rural areas. Generally less engaged in youth programmes and projects than their urban counterparts, there is a need to build on already existing opportunities and identify new areas of action. The ultimate purpose of the Rural Youth Project was to produce a set of key recommendations for EYCA members (and other youth-focused entities) to better engage with rural youth and respond to their needs. Final recommendations can be downloaded on the EYCA website.

The European Solidarity Corps Participation Awards 2023: Over 100 inspiring videos were submitted by young volunteers across Europe and neighbouring countries, sharing their unique experiences and how volunteering has impacted their lives. From environmental projects to supporting refugees, each video was a window into the life-changing experiences of these volunteers.

MoreIn24: our exciting run up to the EU elections: For over a year, EYCA brought together activists across the EU to get out the youth vote. Over 100 people were involved in this campaign to get young people to vote during the EU election in June 2024. The campaign, called MoreIn24, centred around the actions of 50+ young change-makers that organised local events and communications stunts in 18 EU countries. With the help of EYCA members, their

efforts helped ensure that the 2024 EU elections saw the highest ever rate of participation. This project has reached some impressive stats:

- collectively organised 113 awareness-raising events and 40 debates;
- engaged with 8869 young voters;
- welcomed 158 candidates for the EU elections to the events and provided for an opportunity for them to exchange with young citizens;
- collected over 500 postcards from young voters, sharing their thoughts, ideas and questions with MEPs.

Research on the landscape of youth affairs in the Baltic and Nordic Europe: The social, economic and political context of young people living in Nordic and Baltic countries is arguably different than other parts of Europe. While EYCA strives to offer access to European Youth Card services for all young people, it also understands that the needs of youth of Nordic and Baltic countries^[1] are different, the landscape of civil society is unique and the institutional design and (youth) policies play a crucial factor in identifying the right potential member organisations in the regions. Objectives of the research were:

- map the youth affairs landscape in Nordic and Baltic countries of Europe: civic society, institutional design, youth policies, educational institutions, student associations etc.,
- understand better the youth as a demographic in the Nordic and Baltic countries: living standard / social and economic state of play for young people (16 – 25), thematic priorities, type of programmes and benefits they may need etc.;
- understand better the type of potential EYCA membership that would be most appropriate for each of the Nordic and Baltic countries in Europe.

A comprehensive report was prepared by 31 July 2024 highlighting its main outcomes which is expected to help EYCA leadership make strategic decisions about potential membership in the region. A new member in Estonia has recently joined EYCA.

^[1] Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Sweden, Norway, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania.

EYCA Strategy 2025-2030: The current EYCA Strategy would come to an end in December 2024, and a Working Group, with the EYCA Youth Panel presence, was created in order to elaborate a new one from 2025 to 2030. All the EYCA members had an opportunity to bring their comments and suggestions and several workshops were conducted during the EYCA Regional Meetings and at the EYCA Conference that took place in Lecce, Italy, in June 2024. The new strategy would aim to reinforce co-operation with the Council of Europe taking into account a particular importance of the Partial Agreement on youth mobility for EYCA from a strategic point of view. In the next months the new strategy would be voted by the EYCA member organisations.

EYCA Brand Strategy: With the objective to strengthen the EYCA brand, a working group led by a professional brand strategy company, had been created. The group had been reviewing the values, mission and vision of EYCA in order to update its brand and make it stronger. The group was composed of EYCA members, Board members and Youth Panel representatives. Its final conclusions would be ready by the beginning of 2025.

EYCA Board Meeting: The EYCA Board meeting took place in Zaragoza, Spain, together with a Regional Meeting of Group 1, Andorra, France, Portugal and Spain, and the meeting of the Spanish Regions which develop the European Youth Card. The importance of Spain and France as potential Partial Agreement rejoining members was stressed in all the meetings, and actions were planned to contact these countries.

New EYCA Member in Estonia: In August 2024, EYCA welcomed a new member organisation: Koolisüsteemide OÜ for the territory of Estonia. Koolisüsteemide OÜ possessed a vast experience in working with educational institutions and issuing cards for students and pupils. The social company had been present in Estonia for over 15 years and enjoyed a vast network of partners who offered benefits to young people in areas of culture, lifestyle and online educational courses. The EYCA team had a support visit to the new member organisation in October 2024. More partnerships in the youth field in Estonia were expected in the following year, as the Koolisüsteemide OÜ representatives were already in touch with key stakeholders.

12. Any other business

The Vice-Chair, in his capacity as EYCA President, draw attention to the Code of Conduct prepared by EYCA which was about to be launched for approval by vote by the EYCA members. He stressed the fact that he gave particular relevance and importance to the subject and to the commitment made to see EYCA taking this behavioral orientation in consideration in line with what was being done across the EU countries and institutions.

13. Date and place of the next meeting: in principle in the framework of the statutory meetings of the youth sector in Spring 2025, Budapest, Hungary, on Monday 7 April 2025.

APPENDIX List of participants

Governmental representatives

AUSTRIA – excused for absence

Markus WOLF

Federal Chancellery Section VI - Family and Youth

Department 7 European and International Family and Youth Policy

BULGARIA

Liliya ELENKOVA

Advisor to the Minister of Youth and Sports of Bulgaria

CROATIA

Ivana BARAC

Central State Office for Demography and Youth

CYPROS

Maria CHRISTODOULOU

Youth Board of Cyprus

HUNGARY

Enikő VARGA-VÉGVÁRI

Youth Policy Officer, Prime Minister's office, General Youth Department

NORTH MACEDONIA – no nomination

SERBIA – excused for absence

Ms Ivana ANTONIJEVIĆ

Assistant Minister, Sector for Youth, Ministry of Tourism and Youth

SLOVENIA – excused for absence

Mr Igor JESIH, Office for Youth

Ministry of Education, Science and Sport

EYCA representatives

Miguel Perestrello, EYCA Portugal, President of EYCA

Manel Sanchez, EYCA Director

Jean Paul Romegas, EYCA Board

Monica Sala, EYCA Board - absent

Jugoslav Radovic, EYCA Board

Hilary Kid. EYCA Board – absent

Maite Hernandez, EYCA Board - absent

Jiry Gurecki, EYCA Board

Nassim Djaba, EYCA Board - absent

Ramon Maggi, EYCA Board - absent

Corina Pirvulescu, EYCA office

CCJ representative

Konstanze Schönfeld

Secretariat

Tobias Flessenkemper, Head of Youth Department

Clementina Barbaro, Head of Youth Policy Division

Natalja Turenne, Administrator, Youth Policy Division