



AP/Carte-J(2026)1

PARTIAL AGREEMENT ON YOUTH MOBILITY THROUGH THE YOUTH CARD WORK PROGRAMME 2026

Introduction

The Partial Agreement on Youth Mobility through the youth card (PAYM) is one of the longest-standing partnerships in youth mobility field in Europe. Although the smallest Partial Agreement of the Council of Europe, with 25 signatory Member States¹, the Partial Agreement on Youth Mobility through the Youth Card is an active one. It was created in 1991 and has been unanimously supported at the first Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for youth.

As stated in the Committee of Ministers Resolution that established it, “*The Partial Agreement shall be aimed at developing the Youth Card scheme, particularly at European level **in the best interests of young people** [...] with a view to **facilitating their mobility** as well as their access to the various goods and services necessary **for their personal and cultural development.**”*

On 10th Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for youth, held in Malta on 8-10 October 2025, the Partial Agreement on Youth Mobility through the Youth Card was noted in the final Declaration of Ministers, reiterating its role in building the democratic fabric of European society, as part of Council of Europe’s work in youth field:

“*For decades, the Council of Europe has been a key driving force behind the development of youth policy in Europe. Thanks to its pioneering co-management system in the youth field, the Organisation’s member States and young people have worked together to build more democratic and inclusive societies across Europe, supported by key instruments, namely the European Youth Centres, the European Youth Foundation; **the Partial Agreement on Youth Mobility through the Youth Card**, and the partnership with the European Commission in the youth field. The Organisation’s work in this area has included setting standards for knowledge and evidence-based youth policies, youth-policy co-operation, human rights and education for democratic citizenship programmes, campaigns, capacity-building and youth-work activities.*”

At the ad hoc meeting on 4 November 2025, the Chair of the Board of Co-ordination, Miguel Perestrello, presented a preliminary draft programme of the Partial Agreement for 2026 saying that it had received a strong support from the EYCA’s Board. The EYCA Director reminded that the dates and venues were indicative and open for change. The Board held a preliminary exchange of views.

¹ One Member State is expected to withdraw as of 1st January 2026.

At its meeting on 17 November 2025, the Board proceeded with an exchange of views on the outcomes of the 10th Ministerial Conference on Youth and of the working breakfast “New horizons for the Partial Agreement on Youth Mobility through the Youth Card” in the framework of the Conference, and their relevance for the future work of the Partial Agreement. The Board also agreed that the discussion of the PAYM work programme for 2026 should be also based on conclusions and recommendations of the research review.

Finally, the Board discussed in detail the draft proposals and agreed on the Partial Agreement’s work programme 2026 at its on-line meeting on 18 December 2026.

Priorities

The programme of 2026 should draw on key discussions, conclusions and decisions of the research review commanded by the Board of Co-ordination; the conclusions of the 10th Ministerial Conference on Youth; the conclusions of the Workshop on co-operation with other Council of Europe Partial Agreements, taking as an overall context the Reykjavik Declaration and the Secretary general’s New Democratic Pact for Europe.

The research evaluating the impact of the Partial Agreement on the Youth Mobility throughout the years (since 2013 – present), showcasing the type of activities and participants, as well as the spinning effect of approached topics. The evolving discussions on the concept and new realities of youth mobility across Europe, therefore the role and new approaches employed in the Partial Agreement on Youth Mobility. These discussions also took place at the working breakfast in the framework of the 10th Ministerial Conference on Youth. The conclusions are available in document AP/Carte-J(2025)4 and should be integrated in the final version of the current document.

Considering [the 2024-2027 Priorities of the Council of Europe youth sector](#), the work programme of the Partial Agreement on Youth Mobility through the Youth Card reflects the need to engage young people in policy-making and public discussions, in line with:

- a youth perspective currently implemented through all the programmes of the Council of Europe following the Reykjavik Declaration adopted by the 4th Summit of Heads of State and Government of the member States of the Council of Europe (May 2023);
- the Final Declaration of the 10th Council of Europe Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth and Resolution on the Reference Framework on integration of the youth perspective;
- the Council of Europe’s Secretary General’s New Democratic Pact for Europe.

Aims

Therefore, the proposed Partial Agreement’s work programme for 2026 will aim at the following:

- to build on the findings of the Analytical Review of the Activities Delivered (2013-2025) under the Partial Agreement on Youth Mobility through the Youth Card and continue the strategic work of advocacy in the field of youth mobility;
- to explore new avenues of co-operation between the Partial Agreement on Youth Mobility and other Council of Europe Partial Agreements;
- to explore connections between youth mobility, the European Youth Card and other priorities set at the 10th Council of Europe Conference in Malta.

Work programme 2026

1. Promotional Seminar “Renewing the commitment to youth mobility”

As the political priorities shift towards green technology, digitalisation and security, the conversation on youth mobility needs to be shifted and updated based on research, lived experiences of young people and perspectives **ahead**. The Romanian authorities offer to host this event in Bucharest with the following preliminary objectives:

- reinforce the commitment towards youth mobility and the Partial Agreement as an ecosystem that allows young people to explore, both themselves and European values/places;
- gain better knowledge and insights into challenges and opportunities regarding mobility of young people.

Location: Bucharest, Romania

Date: April 2026

Budget: 15.000 EUR

Status: interest from the host country confirmed

2. The Ministry of Youth and Sports of Bulgaria has expressed interest to host a Conference “Safe youth communities in the Black Sea and Balkans Region – towards new co-operation in youth work”.

Location: Bulgaria

Date: 2026

Budget: 20.000 EUR

Status: interest from the host country confirmed

3. Following the Workshop on co-operation with other CoE Partial Agreements, the research review of 2026 and the working breakfast/side event of the Ministerial Conference, **a desk research** could be commissioned to better understand the **current meanings, controversies and significance of youth mobility in Europe**, and study how PA on Youth Mobility can connect to/work with other Partial Agreements. This desk research can be accompanied by a thematic debate on the same subject at one of the Board’s meetings in Strasbourg or Budapest.

Date: statutory meetings in 2026; the research to be conducted through 2026

Budget: 8.000 EUR

Status: Grant Agreement 2026

4. In addition to the usual awareness raising (presentation of the Partial Agreements and EYCA made to the CDEJ/CMJ and other meetings/events of the Council of Europe) and participation of the representatives of the Partial Agreement, particularly Board members, of the EYCA’s Board and the EYCA Youth Panel in events organised by partners, **a presentation of the Partial Agreement and its work should be organised for the Permanent Representations** in Strasbourg through a dedicated event (a half-a-day seminar, or a reception, or a working breakfast).

Location: Strasbourg

Planned budget: 5 000 EUR

These four activities would constitute the main deliverables of the Partial Agreement's work programme 2026. If time, resources (both human and financial) and favorable circumstances would allow, other activities could be considered such as:

5. Following the success of the first edition in 2025 of the Workshop on co-operation with other Council of Europe's Partial Agreements, the need to continue organising such workshops was highlighted on various occasions and by different stakeholders. While not losing sight of partners like EDQM, EPAS and the Pompidou Group, it seemed natural to strengthen links with the **Partial Agreement of "North-South Centre"**. A **workshop on co-operation** between the two Partial Agreements could be organised either in Strasbourg or in Lisbon.

Location: Strasbourg or Lisbon

Date: tbc.

Budget: subject to budgetary availability

Status: subject to the resources and the responsiveness of the North-South Centre secretariat

6. Particular attention solicits furthering of co-operation with the Partial Agreement on **Cultural Routes**. Ideas and suggestions are welcome. Some suggestions could be:

- creation of the **guidelines** for the use of the youth card to promote, develop and walk the Council of Europe Cultural Routes with, for and by young people (a Starter Kit);

- a seminar, or an atelier, or a contribution to the **15th Annual Forum of Cultural Routes** in Gümri, Armenia in September 2026.

Status: subject to the resources and interest of member States to engage in/host an activity and on the responsiveness of the PA on Cultural Routes

7. Co-operation could continue with the Pompidou Group on the **Prevention Prize 2026**. No additional financing is required, in principle, for this activity.