AP/Carte-J(2026)PV56

Partial Agreement on Youth Mobility through the Youth Card
56th meeting of the Board of Co-ordination

Wednesday 21 October 2026
14.30-17.30

European Youth Centre Strasbourg
Room 5.1

REPORT

1. **Opening of the meeting**

The meeting was opened by the Chair, Liliya Elenkova (CDEJ, Bulgaria). A round of introductions followed. The list of participants appears in the Appendix.

2. **Adoption of the agenda**
AP/Carte-J(2026)OJ56 and annotated

Decision

The Board of Co-ordination adopted its agenda as it appears in document AP/Carte-J(2026)OJ56, with an additional discussion on co-operation with the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe (EPA).

3. **Implementation of the work programme 2026**

- Exchange of views with the researchers on the **draft desk research on New meanings of youth mobility in Europe**; link to the research

Following a working breakfast's recommendations in the framework of the 10th European Conference of Ministers responsible for Youth (8-10 October 2025, Valetta, Malta), the Board of Coordination agreed to further explore, through a desk research methodology, the current meanings, controversies and significances of youth mobility in Europe. The outcomes of the study should also help understand, among other things, how PAYM can create active synergies with other Partial Agreements of the Council of Europe.

Thus, the objectives of the study were defined by the tender as following:

- build on the existing knowledge of PA on Youth Mobility through the youth card and further explore dimensions of youth mobility in Europe: current meanings, controversies, significances and political evolution of the concept;

- identify neuralgic points in the concept of youth mobility and different angles of approaching the concept, so as to fully raise awareness of its political importance (ex. how European identity is defined through mobility; the psychological of developments of mobility; the implications of mobility in conflict; accessibility of mobility at local level and on labour market; solidarity and youth mobility etc.);

- support the Board of Coordination to re-articulate the need for political and policy cooperation on advancing youth mobility.

A consortium of two young researchers, Cecilia Longo and Pietro Sala, had been selected to conduct the desk research. One of them joined the Board to present their preliminary findings and hold an exchange of views with the Board, with a view to finalising their work in view of the Board's comments.

The Board of Co-ordination welcomed their work and found the research thorough and very interesting. There were two main requests: to use a less academic language and profile the research more into a practical field to make it more helpful for policy-makers.

- **Promotional seminar in Bucharest**, Romania, 27-29 October 2026
link to the concept note/programme

The event was being jointly organised by the EYCA Office, the Ministry of Labour, Family, Youth and Social Solidarity of Romania, the Student Cultural and Sports Complex, Bucharest Students' Cultural Centre and the PAYM secretariat. Its two main objectives were:

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

The open call was published in the second week of September and around 80 applications were received for 25 places for international participants, among them six governmental representatives, eight applicants from EYCA organisations, one from UNESCO. The concept note and programme are available on the link.

- **Conference in Bulgaria**, 2026

The event would be funded via the Bulgarian Ministry's state budget, a corresponding tender for event management had been launched in September through the standardised public procurement process.

Decision

The Board of Co-ordination took note of the implementation of the PAYM's programme of activities for 2026 with a possibility for a Conference in Bulgaria of taking place either end of November 2026 or transferring it to February 2027.

4. **Preparation of the work programme 2027**
AP/Carte-J(2026)5

On 13 July 2026, the secretariat circulated to the PAYM's 24 member States a call for proposals for the PAYM's work programme for 2027, with an indication that the proposals may concern areas and topics of interest or priority to their ministry or their country's government, as well as

the preferred format for the activities. The areas and topics might concern youth mobility issues as well as access of young people to rights. The call also invited the member States to indicate if there is an interest to co-organise and host an event. No proposal was received.

- **Exchange of views with the representatives of the EDQM**
  link to the list of EDQM activities

Following an exchange of views with the EDQM Director, Dr. Petra Doerr, in 2024 and the Workshop on "Youth Perspectives in Action: co-operation of PAYM with other CoE Partial Agreements" (March 2025), the two secretariats has worked to co-ordinate efforts for a possible convergence of interests and needs between EDQM and PAYM. The list of possible fields and themes is available on the link. A survey among the Partial Agreement's members (three replies received) and a consultation with the CCJ representatives in charge of the youth mobility/EYCA file (three members) have shown a preference for subject N°1 "Medicines" with a possible title **for the joint activity 2027**: **"Can you trust what you buy online? Medicines, slimming products and performance-enhancing substances"** (see the table on the link)

The CCJ representatives had worded the following comment: "In our discussion, we also considered it to be relevant if the workshop can also touch upon topics related to body image, toxic online communities (such as the manosphere) and the use of research chemicals (peptides especially) among young people. As these three subtopics are also related to the topic in the proposal, we thought it to be relevant to also tackle the mental health and societal perceptions aspect of the use of such substances, especially considering that many young people utilize such substances as a result of interactions with online spaces that promote their use, often within a broader context of youth internalising more rigid perceptions about body image."

Unfortunately, the EDQM colleagues had cancelled their intervention at the Board of Co-ordination at a short notice due to an unexpected professional commitment. The PAYM secretariat briefed the Board on recent developments in contacts with the EDQM. The secretariat was invited to the meeting of the Committee of Experts on Falsified Medical Products (CD-P-PH/CMED)/Intergovernmental Committees and Networks Department (ICND), held in Strasbourg on 4-5 November 2026, for an exchange of views.

- **Exchange of views with the representative of the Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS)**

M. Stan Frossard, Executive Secretary to the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS) joined the Board to hold an exchange of views about possible transversal co-operation between EPAS and PAYM in the framework of the youth perspective. EPAS is an intergovernmental platform of co-operation of the Council of Europe on sports policies.

- **Promotional event in Strasbourg for the Permanent Representations** to the Council of Europe in the framework of the Montenegrin Presidency of the Committee of Ministers

The Head of the Youth Department, Tobias Flessenkemper, presented his exchanges with the Permanent Representation of Montenegro in relation to a possible PAYM's promotional event early 2027 in the framework of the forthcoming Committee of Ministers' Presidency of Montenegro.

The EYCA Director presented a proposal for a thematic seminar on "**Youth mobility for youth in rural areas – an equaliser**" to follow-up on the work done in the respect by the Youth Sector of the Council of Europe and EYCA to be held in Austria in 2027. The objectives of the seminar would be:

- to debate and gain better insights into challenges regarding mobility of young people living in rural areas;
- to devise recommendations for EYCA organisations and policy-makers on various governance level (the municipal/local level, regional where relevant, national through the ministries responsible for youth) to enhance mobility opportunities for young people from rural areas.

To summarise, the three activities proposed for the PAYM's work programme in 2027 were:

- a **promotional event for the Permanent Representations** to the CoE in the framework of the Montenegrin Committee of Ministers' Presidency, Strasbourg**,** first half of 2027;
- a joint seminar with the EDQM **"Can you trust what you buy online? Medicines, slimming products and performance-enhancing substances",** Strasbourg, first half of 2027;
- a thematic seminar on **"Youth mobility for youth in rural areas – an equaliser"**, Austria.

Decisions

The Board of Co-ordination took note of the proposals for the PAYM's work programme for 2027 and tasked the secretariat to proceed with its implementation subject to possible changes, in particular a joint meeting between the PAYM Board of Co-ordination and the EPAS Governing Board to develop concrete proposals for co-operation including volunteering in sports event outside the country, promoting of sports values through the youth card; co-branding of youth cards with sports organisations, and using such structures as the EYCA Youth Panel for the development of ideas and arguments for various campaigns.

5. **Recent and forthcoming developments in EYCA** – oral update
AP/Carte-J(2026)6

The EYCA Director concisely briefed the Board on recent and forthcoming developments in EYCA. The full information is available in the reference document AP/Carte-J(2026)6, which also provides analytical information over the previous several years.

Decision

The Board of Co-ordination took note of the recent and forthcoming developments in EYCA as set in document AP/Carte-J(2026)6.

6. **Any other business**

The Board of Co-ordination recalled that the Chair intended to send a letter to the Executive Director of the EPA. The Chair confirmed that the letter had been sent but no reply yet received. The Board voiced its support for furthering co-operation with the Partial Agreement EPA.

7. **Adoption of the report**

Decision

The Board of Co-ordination adopted the report of its current meeting.

8. **Date and place of the next meeting**: in the framework of the statutory meetings of the Youth Sector, 12-14 April 2027 in Budapest.

APPENDIX
List of participants

Governmental representatives

Markus Wolf (Austria)
Liliya Elenkova (Bulgaria), Chair
Alix Ramos (Luxembourg)
Jorge Orlando Quieros (Portugal)
Riccardo Venturini (San Marino)
Igor Jesih (Slovenia)

Guests
Kemal Salic (Bosnia and Herzegovina)
Vladimir Yordanov (Bulgaria)
Darko Stojanovic (Montenegro)
Mihai Sebe (Romania)

EYCA representatives

Jugoslav Radovic, EYCA President, Vice-Chair
Manel Sanchez, EYCA Director
Corina Pirvulescu, EYCA Program and Membership Manager
Rafaela Nunes, EYCA Portugal
Julián Villarroya, EYCA France
Samuel Vallade Sciarini, EYCA Youth Panel

Advisory Council on Youth

Secretariat
Natalja Turenne, Responsible for the PAYM
Clementina Barbaro, Head of Youth Policy Division

Researcher
Cecilia Longo