



AP/Carte-J (2016)2

## **Partial Agreement on Youth Mobility through the Youth Card**

### **37th meeting of the Board of Co-ordination**

**Monday, 17 October 2016  
Strasbourg, European Youth Centre**

**Room 3.2**

### **WORK PROGRAMME 2017**

#### **Introduction**

The Partial Agreement on Youth Mobility through the Youth Card has become one of the core priorities of the European Youth Card Association, through 25 years of its operations. EYCA has invested significant efforts to revive and strengthen its relationship with the Council of Europe as part of implementing its vision to improve youth mobility and active citizenship for all young people in Europe.

The process of revising the Partial Agreement was launched in October 2012, leading to better-tailored activities which are beneficial for both Partial Agreement member states and to EYCA members. There has been an effort to design the work programmes to more accurately meet the needs of governments who already contribute, and communicate more effectively its potential value to governments who could contribute.

Youth Mobility is an important policy issue for governmental policy-makers with an interest in the youth field in Europe. Having in mind its different aspects (work mobility, learning mobility, touristic mobility, etc.), EYCA has a great potential to fulfill the gap which is recognized by all policy stakeholders when it comes to the available data and development of mobility policies.

The migrant crisis with its outburst in 2015, has put a different light on the mobility issues, where young people become increasingly important agents. Mobility is no longer seen as a privilege but a necessity for many young people, from inside and outside Europe. This necessity creates specific issues, and demand specific outputs and tools to tackle them.

Policy makers are interested to learn more about good practices in other countries. EYCA can provide excellent insights into these practices, having in mind 38 countries in its network, all dedicated to supporting youth mobility. EYCA is equipped to easily and promptly generate intelligence from different European countries on any aspect of mobility, which is of interest to the stakeholders.

European Youth Cards are a valuable tool for mobility of young people, which is to be further promoted and strengthened. Youth cards connect young people to all kinds of information, services and opportunities, many of them are linked to employability and entrepreneurship.

Youth Cards provide communication channels which can enable policy-makers (1) to provide young people with information, and (2) to consult young people directly. And many youth card organisations create innovative practices to engage young people as active citizens and in co-designing solutions.

## **Priorities**

The Partial Agreement work programme's priorities, expected results and activities follow the priorities for 2016-2017 adopted by the Joint Council on Youth.

*Advancing democratic citizenship through innovative forms of participation* cannot be seen without youth mobility. Mobility is essential for the *autonomy of young people and their access to rights*, and even more for the *promotion of inclusive and peaceful societies* in the context of strengthening intercultural dialogue among young people, and even more with incoming huge migrant community.

Therefore, the proposed specific aims for the Partial Agreement work programme in 2017 are:

- to generate and mobilize knowledge about youth mobility in Europe;
- to support governments to make better policy responses to youth mobility issues;
- to engage a wide range of stakeholders to devise youth mobility-related policy including European institutions, governments, business, experts and young people;
- to stimulate and present youth card practice that contributes to better youth mobility solutions leading to integration and inclusion, especially in the light of refugee crisis in Europe.

## **Programme of activities for 2017**

### **1. Joint CDEJ-PA-EYCA Summer University on Youth mobility and related issues**

If no offer is made for a CDEJ Summer University by a member government, the Partial Agreement, EYCA and one of the countries active in the youth card development are ready to make an offer for a CDEJ Summer University in 2017 aimed at all CDEJ members, Advisory Council members and various partners (EYCA, ERYICA, national youth councils, Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, etc.)

This proposal will be submitted for discussion at the meeting of the CDEJ on 17-19 October 2016. The theme might focus on “Mobility as a response to social exclusion”.

This would be another youth sector’s contribution to the Council of Europe’s Action Plan on Building Inclusive Societies and to the Secretary General’s Action Plan “TER”.

The purpose of a 3-day Summer University will be, among other traditional subjects of such an event, to support youth policy decision-makers in advancing strategic actions considering youth mobility as an access of young people to their rights on the national and international level aiming at providing better information and opportunities to young people across Europe, particularly from disadvantaged or vulnerable backgrounds.

The following specific/thematic goals could be identified for the Summer University:

- **to advance the knowledge on youth mobility and its effects**

Presenting the available data on youth mobility, specifically focusing on its effects on exclusion/inclusion of young people should introduce the theme of the University, emphasizing the importance of the link between evidence and proper policy planning. Having in mind that often policy-makers as well as practitioners emphasize lack of evidence (data on youth mobility and mobility practices), part of the programme could be dedicated to cooperation between governments, researchers and other partners like EYCA and ERYICA in order to provide evidence-based directions for mobility policies on the European and national level. Joint actions on youth mobility against social exclusion could be also discussed.

- **to foster further cooperation with other European networks and its national members through sharing practices and planning joint actions**

Similar to necessity to coordinate actions with governmental authorities on all levels, it is beneficial for young people to foster more coordinated actions among relevant youth-related networks in Europe. EYCA already has agreements with the largest networks – EYRICA, Eurodesk, European Youth Forum, whose potential should be explored and exploited more thoroughly.

Planned budget for the Summer University from the EYCA/PA budget: 25.000 EUR

## **2. PA-EYCA promotional seminar**

The Partial Agreement aims to continue its efforts to bring more countries to join its ranks. The Partial Agreement has grown since its foundation in 1991 (from 5 to 21) but several large European countries (France, Italy, Spain) left the agreement, mostly due to the financial crisis. However, having in mind the challenges of youth mobility in Europe, and especially negative aspects linked to forced migration, there is a need, on the European level, to consider a renewed participation in policy-wise important agreements.

The Partial Agreement significantly strengthened its impact through strong youth card network in Europe, which is a solid basis for exploring the needs of the countries of the Council of Europe, including those with large youth populations. More attention will be paid to present an added value for youth policy stakeholders in (re)joining the Partial Agreement.

The event is planned for September 2017 in a Partial Agreement's member country.  
Planned budget: 10.000 EUR.

## **3. PA/EYCA seminar in the framework of the Cypriote Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers (postponed from 2016)**

Nicosia, early February 2017

The subject and the programme will be developed with the Cypriote authorities.

## **4. Card in the field: refugee inclusion actions**

EYCA will present good practices from its members, which are investing efforts to support refugees, but also other forms of inclusion practices. The short film will be produced in 2017, gathering evidence around Europe on how young cardholders and youth card workers participate directly in the actions supporting refugees and migrants. Specifically, it will focus on engaging migrants and refugees directly in card actions, contributing to the promotion of the inclusion of these groups.

As a part of this action, EYCA will financially support participation of the young refugees and migrants in the seminars and activities of EYCA and its members, striving to involve them on a higher level and bring their voice into the public. The specific details of this activity will be developed and coordinated with the Partial Agreement Coordination Board, as a part of the PA activities.

Planned budget: 5.500 EUR.

This action could be subject of a half-a-day promotional seminar for the Permanent Representations to the Council of Europe in Strasbourg where Partial Agreement's and EYCA's action and added value would be also high-lighted.

#### **5. Presentations to the CDEJ and the Board of Co-ordination**

Updated information will be provided to all meetings of the CDEJ. The traditional working dinner for all Partial Agreement's members on the results of the passed year and priorities and perspectives for the next year is also foreseen.