



AP/Carte-J (2017)3

Partial Agreement on Youth Mobility through the Youth Card Programme of activities for 2018

Introduction

The Partial Agreement on Youth Mobility through the Youth Card (PA) has become one of core priorities of the European Youth Card Association, through 26 years of its operations. EYCA is the main partner of the Partial Agreement in the implementation of its programme of activities. EYCA and the Council of Europe youth sector have mutually invested significant efforts to revive and strengthen their relationship as part of implementing a constructive vision of improving youth mobility and active citizenship opportunities 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 PA member states and EYCA members, and, as a final end, to young people themselves. 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 a current priority for all policy-makers with an interest in youth issues in Europe. Having in mind its different aspects (work mobility, learning mobility, touristic mobility, etc.), EYCA has a great potential to fill the gap which is recognized by all policy stakeholders when it comes to the available data and development of mobility policies.

The refugee crisis, the economic migrations within the continent ('brain-drain' phenomena) and the challenges of youth work in an increasingly digital era have shed a different light on the mobility issues. Mobility is seen not as a privilege any more, but a necessity for many young people, from inside and outside Europe.

Policy makers report that there is a limited established knowledge and intelligence related to these complex issues of youth mobility. There is a need for adapting the youth sector - its policies, infrastructure, youth work tools - to new realities, and oftentimes the dynamics of young generation are faster than the sector's capacity to innovate.

In this context, **EYCA** and its member organisations, with the direct support and feedback from young cardholders, **can provide excellent insights into:**

- trends related to youth participation and tools used in youth work to enhance youth community involvement, especially in a digital era;
- trends and good practices in supporting economic, social, political inclusion of young people with Roma, migrant and/or refugee background, by adapting the approaches in European youth work sector and highlighting the important role of youth workers;
- good practices on how to use youth sector infrastructure, and in particular EYCA's member organisations, to promote and enhance access to social and economic rights for all young people.

European Youth Cards are a valuable tool for mobility of young people, which is to be further promoted and strengthened, but also to implement other policy priorities, such as: active citizenship, access to rights, quality information etc. Youth cards connect young people to all a variety of services and opportunities. Youth Cards provide communication channels which can enable policy-makers to:

- (1) provide young people with information, and
- (2) consult young people directly.

In addition, many youth card organisations create innovative practices to engage young people as active citizens and in **co-designing solutions**. This could and should be shared on a platform such as the Partial Agreement on Youth Mobility.

Priorities of the Partial Agreement for 2018-2019

Having in mind the *priorities for the 2018-2019 programme of activities of the Council of Europe's Youth Sector* (<https://rm.coe.int/16806dbe0c>) recently adopted by the Joint Council on Youth, the Partial Agreement's objective in this context is to ensure that youth mobility is an important tool for achieving these objectives in its own programme of activities, such as, for example, mainstreaming the importance of "opportunities for youth mobility" as a positive narrative, changing the perspective on young people with refugee background and seeing them as *opportunity youth*, offering the space for youth workers to be innovative, etc.

Therefore, in 2018, in a coherent flow from its previous work programmes, the Partial Agreement will aim at:

- generating and mobilising knowledge about youth mobility in Europe;
- supporting governments to develop opportunities for meaningful youth participation in democratic processes and in their communities;
- supporting innovation in youth work towards a better inclusion of young migrants, refugees and asylum seekers and promoting the positive narrative of youth mobility;

- stimulating and presenting youth card practice that contributes to ensuring young people access to their civic, economic and social rights.

Programme of activities 2018

In the context described here above, the following activities, supported by the EYCA Board meeting held on 28-30 September 2017 in Brussels, are proposed for the Partial Agreement's work programme in 2018:

1. PA Seminar “Role of Youth Cards in promoting social entrepreneurship: from economic empowerment to tackling ‘*brain drain*’ phenomena” (“Brain drain or brain gain?”)

In May 2018, Croatia will take over the Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe and this represents a great opportunity to discuss youth economic empowerment. With 23.72% youth unemployment rate and an increasing ‘*brain drain*’ phenomena, Croatia is a good place to discuss possibilities of using the infrastructure of the youth card in order to support:

- Economic empowerment of young people;
- Community involvement through social entrepreneurship;
- Tackle the phenomena of ‘brain drain’ and promote the positive narrative about mobility on labour market among young people.

The seminar will bring together: EYCA member organisations with experience in promoting social entrepreneurship, experts and policy makers, as well as great local examples of social entrepreneurs and how the youth card can link to their businesses and communities.

Location: Croatia

Budget: 10.000 EUR

2. PA Seminar “From good practices to youth policies and vice-versa: the European Youth Card as a tool to promote access to social and civic rights for all young people”

The Council of Europe is one of the leading institutions in promoting inclusive, human-rights based policies, including youth policies. With the legislative framework such as the *European Charter on Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education* and *The European Social charter*, as well as a number of recently adopted *Committee of Ministers Recommendations*¹ citizens and governments have important mechanisms at their disposal.

However, when it comes to vulnerable population groups, especially young people, **their access to civic, social and economic rights** is particularly important. The seminar aims to *identify possibilities of using the European Youth Card as a tool to reach out to the most vulnerable young persons and ensuring they have access to information that defends their rights as citizens.*

¹ CM Recommendation(2016)7 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on young people's access to rights; CM Recommendation(2015) of the Committee of Ministers to member States on the access of young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods to social rights

The seminar will bring together policy makers in the youth field, youth experts, youth workers and young people. They will get familiar with the priorities of these documents and identify opportunities of how they can actually help to implement them at local and national levels.

Location: To be decided

Budget: 10.000 EUR

3. Promotional PA Seminar “Mainstreaming youth mobility opportunities in policies at all levels”

The Partial Agreement’s promotional seminars are organised as a response to an interest voiced by a number of states not yet party to the Partial Agreement to learn more about it, as well as about the youth card and its implementation.

The objectives of a promotional seminar are to:

- promote the European Youth Card (EYC) as a tool for policy development and implementation, at local, national and European levels, especially towards Government representatives;
- encourage Governments who did not sign the Partial Agreement on Youth Mobility to do so and mainstream ‘youth mobility’ as a priority in their public policies;
- share good practices on how the EYC is developed by EYCA members and get hands-on experience on how the youth card is used to provide services to young people at all levels.

Location: To be decided

Budget: 8.000 EUR

4. Presentations to the CDEJ, EPLM and all members of the Partial Agreement²

Updates on the recent developments in the Partial Agreement and EYCA will be made at all meetings of the CDEJ and the European Platform on Learning Mobility (EPLM) as is the current usual practice.

In addition, two working dinners will be hosted by EYCA for all governmental representatives of the Partial Agreement in the framework of the statutory meetings of the youth sector (in Budapest and in Strasbourg) in order to present the results of the implementation of the Partial Agreement’s programme of activities, discuss vision and proposals for future actions, up-date on the developments taking place in EYCA and its member organisations, to present its recent publications, as well as to present its fund raising action (a new subject).

Location: Strasbourg and Budapest, in the framework of statutory meetings

Budget: 3.000 EUR.

² Beyond the usual practice of meetings of the Board of Coordination meetings

5. Summer University

Possible theme: Youth Work and Access to Rights for Young Refugees and Migrants

The European youth work sector is on a constant process of bettering itself and offer services to all young people across the continent, regardless of their nationality, ethnicity, social or economic background. The services offered by youth workers and youth centres have proven their added value in empowering young people to become autonomous, responsible citizens, socially included and reduce extreme violence and radicalisation.

At the same time, the youth sector needs to aim at taking the discussion to the next level when it comes to including young refugees and migrants: their access to social, civic and economic rights, which are the pillars of European democracies where they live.

EYCA has taken important steps in promoting the European Youth Card as a tool for social inclusion of young refugees and migrants, and organised two high-level events which resulted in concrete proposals to improve the services around the youth card.

The objectives of the event are the following:

- to offer the space for policy makers, researchers and practitioners to advance discussions on how transectorial policies can ensure young refugees and migrants have access to rights;
- to ensure that the European Youth Card is used as a tool for informing young refugees and migrants about their rights and that it is part of policy development and its implementation;
- to plan and develop cooperation among member states and EYCA organisations in order to support policies for young refugees and migrants.

Location: Cascais, Portugal

Budget: 12.000 EUR

6. Workshop for the Strasbourg Permanent Representations

Connected (ideally) to the Croatian Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers, the ½ day workshop will be dedicated to representatives of Permanent Missions to the Council of Europe in Strasbourg (representatives of Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Council of Europe member states) and will provide them with an opportunity to get better acquainted with the youth sector and its European Youth Centre in Strasbourg, the Partial Agreement on Youth Mobility through the youth card and EYCA.

They will have an opportunity to discuss youth mobility from the perspective of “brain drain – brain gain” and social entrepreneurship with practitioners, policy makers, representatives of the business and research worlds. These subjects are of particular importance and concern to a significant number of member states and are sure to attract attention. The workshop will be conceptually based on the Chairmanship event in Croatia but will be in an adapted and shorter

format. A similar event in 2013 was a success bringing in 23 diplomatic missions who recommended to continue with this format at a regular intervals.

The workshop will be followed by a buffet dinner to allow for networking opportunities, etc.

Location: Strasbourg, EYC

Date: Early July 2018

Budget: 2000 EUR

7. Publications

Since 2013 EYCA has started the process of disseminating knowledge about practice examples through its so called GPS³ series (see EYCA GPSs <http://issuu.com/eyca>). Further development of knowledge dissemination is envisaged through publishing the report on youth mobility policies and practices throughout Europe, as well as of the report of the Seminar on countering violent radicalisation of young people in Europe held in the framework of the Cyprus Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers in 2017.

³ Good Practice Series