



COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Strasbourg, 4 November 2020

CC-ERYICA(2020)PV31

**PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT  
BETWEEN ERYICA AND THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE**

**Joint Co-ordinating Committee (JCC)**

31<sup>st</sup> meeting

**Strasbourg, 8 October 2020 (10:00-11:30)**

***Online meeting***

***REPORT***

**1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda**

*CC-ERYICA(2020)OJ31*

Present at the current meeting:

**ERYICA** was represented by:

Imre Simon (Development Manager) and Claire Conlon (ERYICA Governing Board member);

**CDEJ** was represented by:

Sarah Spiteri, Maltese Youth Agency, Ministry of Education and Employment and Menelaos Menelaou, Executive Director, Youth Board of Cyprus;

**CCJ** was represented by: Sean Ellul, National Youth Council of Malta;

**Council of Europe (Youth Department)** was represented by:

Florian Cescon, Head of the Youth Policy Division; Gordana Berjan, Executive Director of the European Youth Centre Budapest (EYCB); Natalja Turenne, Administrator in charge of the agreement with ERYICA and secretary to the JCC.

The meeting was opened by Florian Cescon on behalf of the Council of Europe secretariat and the agenda was adopted as it appears in document CC-ERYICA(2020)OJ31.

On this occasion, the secretariat recalled that for over 20 years the Council of Europe and ERYICA had been engaged in a fruitful co-operation, which had been revitalised through a revised Partnership Agreement formally adopted by the Committee of Ministers in 2019. This formed the basis for the current co-operation between the two partners. According to this document, the Joint Co-ordinating Committee (JCC) was responsible for:

- drawing up the annual programme of co-operation activities;
- reviewing the implementation of the programme at least once a year.

The secretariat also recalled that, according to the JCC revised Rules of Procedure (Article 5.3), a Chair shall be appointed at the beginning of the meeting, in which case the Secretary General or his/her representative shall take the Chair temporarily. In the absence of candidates and in accordance with Article 5.3, the current meeting was chaired by the Council of Europe secretariat (Florian Cescon) representing the Secretary General.

The Council of Europe secretariat then thanked ERYICA for quickly adapting to the reality of the Covid-19 pandemic and for having contributed to mitigating the negative effects of the current crisis on young people. The secretariat was also grateful to ERYICA and to its member organisations for strongly contributing to the Council of Europe database of good practices of youth policy and youth work responses to the Covid-19 situation: see the link <https://www.coe.int/en/web/youth/-/good-practices-by-the-members-of-the-european-youth-information-and-counselling-agency-eryica->

## 2. Recent developments within ERYICA – an oral update, including responses to the Covid-19 situation (see the link above)

The representative of ERYICA stated that, like many, ERYICA had to rethink its programme of activities in 2020 and move its face-to-face activities online. Some of the most prominent are summarised below:

- **A webinar on Media and Information Literacy in Formal and Non-formal Education** would take place in the framework of the 8<sup>th</sup> [UNESCO Global Media and Information Literacy \(MIL\) Week 2020](#) (26-31 October 2020) under the theme “*Resisting Disinformation: Media and Information Literacy for everyone and, by everyone*”. The webinar would address the question of the best way to approach media and information literacy in formal and non-formal education settings. Some Green MIL concepts and practices from ERYICA members would be presented, as well as good practice in the field of MIL by youth information providers members of ERYICA from France, Austria and Portugal.

New “[Greening Youth Information Services](#)” and “[Good Practice in Youth Information](#)” booklets would be promoted there. All this relates to ERYICA’s mission, as well as to its Strategic Plan, which included the promotion of MIL among young people, as well as its inclusion in youth information activities. To ensure the efficient realisation of these aims, ERYICA had partnered with UNESCO and had been participating in the International Organisation Committee of the Global MIL Week.

ERYICA would develop a campaign to showcase how youth information services worked to improve the media and information literacy in young people.

- **Building a Social media resilience toolkit- SMaRT-EU project** was a project funded by the Media Literacy for All Programme of the European Commission aimed at providing tools, suggestions and resources to train young people, “digital immigrants” (+50) and also the intermediaries who worked with them in how to read media - particularly social media; critically understand how social media represented people and issues; and how to navigate with critical consciousness in the saturated and instantaneous informational social media environment, addressing the importance of fact-checking skills.

SMaRT-EU would work across these two generations and across five European countries (Portugal, Spain, Croatia, Belgium, and Estonia) and seven languages (English, Portuguese, Spanish, Croatian, Dutch, Estonian and French, ensured by translations of some of the materials of the outputs) to develop media literacy as a form of resilience against fake news and disinformation. The project, starting in October 2020, would run till October 2021.

Other main activities of the year 2020 included:

**1<sup>st</sup> strategic objective – Capacity Building:**

The training of trainers' system of ERYICA was restructured and made more comprehensive, certifying the participants to run several courses. It uses blended learning methodology. The MedYIa project is being launched, which targets media and information literacy and examines how to make the most of existing tools and resources in the field.

**2<sup>nd</sup> strategic objective: Research, Trends and Innovation:**

The DesYIgn project is introducing the concept of service design in youth information work. The latest edition of the biennial Good Practice in Youth Information booklets has been published.

**3<sup>rd</sup> strategic objective: Quality and youth information ethics:**

The promotion of the European Youth Information Charter and translation of its explanatory brochure to new languages have continued.

The Youth Ambassador's network is being reconceptualised, including peer-to-peer trainings with an aim of building a pool of supporters of ERYICA and youth information services. The "[Greening Youth Information Services](#)" booklet is the result of an ambitious new initiative with Eurodesk, which had surpassed the initial plans, on how youth information work and European youth programmes could be greener. The European Youth Information Day Campaign of 2020 was organised along these lines and it focused on Climate Change and invited young people to act. The development and piloting of the European Youth Information Quality Label also falls under this strategic priority (see below).

**4<sup>th</sup> strategic objective: Policy advocacy and cooperation:**

Relatively new co-operation with UNESCO and participation in the Global MIL Week (see above). The Youth Information in 2020 publication belongs to this strategic objective as well.

A transversal strategic priority is **Communication and PR** – the Governing Board recognised that it had to be tackled separately.

In reaction to the last item, the Council of Europe secretariat mentioned that the booklet "[Greening Youth Information Services](#)" had been circulated to all Joint Council on Youth (CMJ) members as a background document to the CMJ thematic debate on the "[climate crisis and global governance](#)", which was held online on 17 June 2020.

### **3. Implementation of the grant agreement 2020**

The major activity of the grant agreement 2020 was the finalisation of the development of the European Youth Information Quality Label. The result of the work in the Council of Europe - ERYICA partnership during the last two years would soon be visible to the public. The official launch would take place during an online event on 1 December 2020. It would present the new Label and its significance for youth information work in Europe, as well as its conditions of use and possibilities to apply.

The Label was currently being piloted in nine countries by nine organisations in Europe. Based on their feedback, the Label's awarding and functioning would be finetuned by the end of the year. A contest had been organised among young people to select the design of the label, to make sure it was youth-friendly and close to young people's preferences. A design agency adapted the winning submission.

The applications would open at the beginning of 2021. The rights to apply the label could be obtained in three ways, depending on the structure of the youth information services in the area

concerned. To recall, the aim was to offer young people an easy way of selecting trustworthy information.

The Council of Europe secretariat underlined the impressive work done by ERYICA in the last two years when only initial ideas had been discussed. The EYCB Executive Director wished to understand the way how two Labels – the European Quality Label of the Council of Europe for Youth centres which had inspired ERYICA and the new ERYICA Label for youth information – could communicate and relate to each other. The ERYICA representative replied that indeed that was the question to be looked into, despite the fact that the two labels were developed for different purposes, both linked to the Council of Europe. He then provided some precisions for the future functioning of the youth information quality label.

Other activities: “Liaisons” manual could not be disseminated at various events which had to be cancelled or moved on-line, thus ERYICA tried to boost it on-line. France and Spain provided voluntary contributions which allowed to increase the available linguistic versions.

The PPP is available here below:



#### **4. Preparation of the draft grant agreement 2021 (priorities, activities, publications) – exchange of views *CC-ERYICA(2020)1*; *CoE ERYICA Partnership 2021***

The Council of Europe secretariat thanked ERYICA representatives for a very interesting proposal for the grant agreement of 2021. ERYICA intended to give a boost to on-line activities, proposing a wide range of attractive and interactive webinars. The aim would be also to make a wider geographical outreach. The themes of the four webinars would be chosen by vote among ERYICA members among a dozen preliminary proposals. As mentioned above, 2021 would be the year to establish the European youth information label as a recognised information tool, with the first call launched at the start of the year.

“Liaisons” and other ERYICA on-line resources needed an up-date as well as to be transposed on-line in an inter-active format. Further translations would be an asset.

The Council of Europe secretariat asked ERYICA to keep it informed on any further developments with regard to the webinars, as there was complementarity with the Council of Europe Youth Department, which could share useful information and create relevant links.

The representative of the CCJ suggested to include international youth NGOs in the criteria for applications to take part in the Task Force on the European Youth Information Label. The representative of the ERYICA’s Governing Board agreed with the suggestion.

Following an exchange of views, the Joint Co-ordinating Committee approved the draft concept note for the grant agreement 2021, which would be finalised accordingly by the Council of Europe secretariat. The secretariat would mention this at the forthcoming CDEJ meeting on 12 October 2020.

The PPP is available here below:



## **5. Any other business**

The representative of the CCJ, as a general point, while acknowledging the high quality of the content produced by ERYICA and its member organisations, made a few suggestions to further improve the communication strategy, particularly as regards the interactivity of its website.

## **6. Date and place of the next meeting**

In order to compensate for the absence of any physical JCC meeting in 2020, it was suggested to hold the next JCC meeting during the next statutory meetings in Strasbourg in March 2021, in case they would be held face-to-face. However, in case the spring statutory meetings would have to be held online due to the sanitary situation, it was agreed that the next JCC meeting would take place in October 2021 only, in conjunction with the autumn statutory meetings.