



Strasbourg, 4 November 2022

CC-ERYICA(2022)PV33

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

### **Joint Co-ordination Committee**

33rd meeting

**Budapest, 12 October 2022**

### **REPORT**

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

[CC-ERYICA\(2022\)33](#)

Present:

ERYICA: Eva Reina, ERYICA Director; Angelina Pereira Gonçalves, Members' Services Coordinator, and Patrick Burke, President of ERYICA, Governing Board member

CDEJ: Miriam Teuma (Malta), Katrin Olt (Estonia)

CCJ: Marko Lončar (OSRS - Youth Council of Republic of Srpska)

Council of Europe Youth Policy Division: Natalja Turenne and Clementina Barbaro

The meeting was opened by the secretariat. It was 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 (Natalja Turenne) representing the Secretary General.

The agenda was adopted as it appears in document CC-ERYICA(2021)OJ33.

#### **2. Recent developments within ERYICA - an oral up-date**

ERYICA's secretariat proceeded with an oral update of the recent developments in ERYICA since the last JCC meeting in March 2021.

A new ERYICA's Governing Board was elected in May 2022 and Patrick Burke was elected its President.

ERYICA would start preparing a new **Strategic Plan 2024-2029** to be adopted in 2023. The current Strategic Plan was the main document that defined the activities of ERYICA for the duration of its validity. It was based on Strategic Directions, which aimed at supporting young

people's access to quality youth information and counselling services. The Strategic Plan also served to ensure a clear definition of the annual Work Programmes of the Agency.

In the framework of the European Year on Youth, ERYICA was putting a lot of emphasis on **youth participation** in 2022 believing in the importance of including young people's perspectives in the design, delivery and evaluation of youth information services. The active participation of young people in the governance and activities of the Agency was crucial to enhance the innovation and outreach of youth information services across Europe.

As a spin-off of the **YinfoPeers** project funded by Erasmus+ (2020-2023), a Youth Ambassadors Commission (EYAC) was created within ERYICA as a pilot initiative kicked off in early 2022. The current EYAC counted 8 young representatives from 7 different countries directly involved in the work of ERYICA until Autumn 2022, when a new EYAC would be elected. These young people represented the Youth Ambassador network which was composed of 40 Ambassadors around Europe. It was hoped to transform the Commission into a statutory body of ERYICA.

Other highlights of ERYICA's work were the **YinfoPioneers** project, **24-month Erasmus+ Capacity Building project** which aimed at pioneering youth information services in Western Balkan countries. While some specialised information services could be found in the region, there existed no national or regional structures for generalist youth information services ensuring universal access of young people to quality information and counselling. With this project, ERYICA sought to set the basis of development/extension of youth information and counselling services in North Macedonia, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Montenegro, and to promote the integration of the young people's right to information in national youth policies. The CCJ representative supported the need of further development of youth information and counselling services in the Western Balkans.

The Agency was taking part in various campaigns this year: ERYICA's Youth Ambassadors designed ERYICA's campaign on the occasion of the Youth Action Week 2022 to support the « Democracy Here Democracy – Democracy Now » Campaign. ERYICA also dedicated the European Youth Information Day Campaign 2022 to youth activism, democracy and the importance of information in youth movements that changed history.

ERYICA continued to invest a lot into training of youth information workers and training of trainers who worked locally in native languages, for example:

**ALTYO training (part of the Grant Agreement 2022):** an online training on Advocacy and Lobbying for Youth Organisations providing basic information and understanding of the concept of advocacy and lobbying, particularly in the context of dialogue between civil society organisations (CSO) and the governmental sector. It started on 03/10/2022 for five weeks with the aim to upskill youth organisations to advocate for their services successfully. Around 40 participants enrolled for the training course.

**ERYICAdemy - Training of Trainers in Youth Information and Counselling:** the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition (2022-23) also started in October 2022 with an aim to certify future ERYICA trainers to deliver 5 ERYICA trainings and their eLearning counterparts. Participants would undergo two eLearning phases and two residential trainings over 6 months and become members of the ERYICA trainers' network.

Another focus was media and information literacy (MIL) and mental health issues. ERYICA and the MedYIa project partners created a training course on MIL for youth workers, which was piloted in September 2022. Regarding mental health, ERYICA was about to start an Erasmus+ KA2 project intended to develop with mental health experts tools for youth information workers to actively provide first-hand support to young people.

ERYICA secretariat was congratulated for such a comprehensive and excellent work in 2022.

### 3. Implementation of the grant agreement 2022

[CC-ERYICA \(2022\)1](https://www.eryica.org/news/ukrainian-displaced-youth-report); <https://www.eryica.org/news/ukrainian-displaced-youth-report>  
[Report on the survey among Ukrainian young people](https://www.eryica.org/news/ukrainian-displaced-youth-report)

ERYICA Director thanked the Council of Europe for an excellent co-operation through the year and expressed the Agency's great appreciation of this Partnership with the Council of Europe. Patrick Burke underlined that working together, the two partner organisations could really make a difference for young people in Europe.

I. As regards the implementation of the 2022 Grant Agreement, the webinar series were in progress:

- **“New forms of sexual abuse: what Youth Information workers can do”** webinar (31 May 2022) was aimed at raising awareness about different forms of sexual violence, harassment, grooming, and abuse affecting young people. It was an opportunity to establish an open dialogue on their impact on young people, the position of youth information and counselling services, and the nature of actions and support that can be provided to young people in need.

- **“Youth information: talking money”** webinar would take place on 19 October 2022. It aimed at understanding the true nature of financial literacy and gaining some insights and knowledge on the current situation of youth financial literacy in Europe.

- **“Do you kNOW distress? - Youth information responses to mental health”** webinar would take place on 23 November 2022 and deal with the very topical for young people issue of mental health.

The Joint Coordination Committee would be invited to take note of the Final report on the Implementation of the Grant Agreement between the Council of Europe and ERYICA for the year of 2022 at its next meeting in March 2023.

II. The **European Quality Label (QL) for Youth Information Services** continued to be one of the priorities of the 2022 work programme. It was designed and implemented for and with young people in cooperation with youth information professionals and linked to a set of quality assessment criteria, mechanisms and tools. Once the organisation received the label, they could label various youth information products and services they provided. The project was managed by a QL Task Force in which young people took an active part. The first Label Awarding Ceremony took place during ERYICA's 33rd General Assembly. The Latest Online Questions and Answers Session was held on 20 September 2022. There were two calls per year, the next application deadline was set at 31 October 2022. Currently there were nine QL holders. 2023 would be more dedicated to the dissemination of information regarding the European Quality Label for Youth Information Services.

The implementation of the 2022 Grant Agreement is also available in the Power point presentation here below:



JCC - CoE - ERYICA -  
2022 ACTIVITIES.pdf

III. In addition, **a survey on informational needs of young refugees** was conducted in cooperation with the Ukrainian Center in Barcelona, Spain (project of the Association of Ukrainians “Djerelo”) from 20 April to 31 July 2022. This survey aimed at understanding the information needs, expectations and interests of young refugees from Ukraine. 358 responses were received from young Ukrainian refugees aged 13-35 and based in different European countries. The survey highlighted six areas in which it was crucial for youth information and counselling services to be active and aware. The survey method combined face-to-face and online surveying. Over 70% of respondents were women, and 70% were between 15-25 years old. The data gathered was analysed by experts from the Ukrainian community. The conclusions and recommendations had been drawn in cooperation with ERYICA.

The survey results were presented in September 2022 at the event organised in Sibenik, Croatia, in the framework of the ERYICA YinfoPeers project and in an online café organised by ERYICA in the framework of its Partnership with the Council of Europe on 30 September 2022. The two online cafés organised by ERYICA regarding this topic took the form of informal discussions open to youth information workers, youth workers, young people and others interested in the topic of young refugees in Europe.

The proposed work programme for the 2023 grant agreement would built on the results and recommendations of this survey to help youth information providers and other stakeholders grasp ways of adapting their services to the needs of young refugees across Europe with the aim to support their transition to adulthood and their involvement and integration in the hosting communities more effectively.

The report of the results of the survey is available in the document below:



JCC - Report young  
refugees Presentation

#### **4. Preparation of the draft grant agreement 2023 (priorities, activities, publications)**

[CC-ERYICA \(2022\)2](#)

Next year ERYICA intended to continue the work started in 2022 and earlier, and proposed to concentrate on three major activities:

1. Ensuring quality youth information support to young refugees in transition to adulthood,
2. Enhancing the implementation and promotion of the European Youth Information Quality Label,
3. Promotion of CoE-ERYICA partnership resources.

As regards the new trend in the co-operation within the Partnership Agreement, i.e. the quality youth information support to young refugees in transition to adulthood (1), this activity would be based on the so-called *YoMIM- «Youth on the Move Infomobility»* which trained youth information workers to address the specific information and support needs of young people in the context of *cross-European mobility*. It would include:

- upgrading the YoMIM training (online & offline course) to ensure that its objectives and resources also equipped youth information workers to support young people facing forced migration.
- developing and piloting the new YoMIM course online with youth information workers from across Europe.

Another objective of the 2023 programme of activities would be expanding the joint Council of Europe - ERYICA work in terms of publications, some of which would be updated, and translations, as new linguistic versions were in the making or planned. In reply to a question, ERYICA's Director explained that the Agency spent mostly on graphic design, content development and on-line publication, instead of printing. This was also freeing resources for translation which made ERYICA's resources accessible to a larger public of youth information workers Europe-wide. ERYICA also found resources for translation in the framework of other projects, mainly EU-funded projects, or thanks to voluntary contributions from members of the network. The limited number of printed publications were done on eco/recycled paper.

The Joint Co-ordination Committee thanked ERYICA representatives for the 2023 grant agreement proposal which appeared in reference document CC-ERYICA (2022) and is set out in the Power point presentation here below:



JCC - CoE proposal  
2023.pdf

The Joint Co-ordination Committee approved the proposal for the 2023 Grant Agreement between the Council of Europe and ERYICA.

## **5. Any other business**

*Implementation of the Grant Agreement 2021: Final Report [CC-ERYICA\(2022\)3](#)*

The Joint Co-ordination Committee took note of the Final report on the Implementation of the Grant Agreement between the Council of Europe and ERYICA for the **year of 2021** as it appears in reference document CC-ERYICA(2022)3.

Miriam Teuma suggested considering a possibility of supporting ERYICA's action with an increased budget through funds from the recent German contribution to the Council of Europe Youth Sector. This contribution could support the development of actions aiming at making youth information more accessible to young people by supporting youth information providers through ERYICA.

The secretariat together with ERYICA would look into this proposal.

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

The next meeting of the Joint Co-ordination Committee would take place in the framework of the statutory bodies of the Council of Europe youth sector in March 2023 in Strasbourg.