

## 8. Developing / Expanding Partial Agreement on Youth Mobility through the Youth Card

### Plan for discussion October 2012

#### 1. Increasing coverage for European Youth Cards

- 1.1 EYCA has identified increasing coverage of European Youth Cards as a strategic priority for the next five years. That should be achieved by establishing EYCA member organisations in territories where there currently are none, as well as by increasing the number of cardholders for existing EYCA member organisations.
- 1.2 Increasing the number of cardholders for existing EYCA member organisations is a central feature of EYCA's Maximising impact work programme. During 2012, nine member organisations have been actively engaged in the Maximising Impact programme. Organisations participating in this programme are selected using specific criteria based on EYCA's Quality Standards.
- 1.3 In the past month EYCA member organisations have been asked to forecast the number of cards they anticipate will be in circulation by the end of 2013. Incomplete information to date indicates a total of 4.9 million cards will be in circulation at the end of 2013. Significant growth is identified in the following countries:
  - Austria
  - Azerbaijan
  - Hungary
  - Netherlands
  - Sweden
- 1.4 The Maximising Impact programme of work has led to four member organisations leaving EYCA in the past twelve months. For three of these territories (Czech Republic, Macedonia and Montenegro) new member organisations have replaced them.
- 1.5 It is important to note that the purpose Maximising Impact work extends beyond only increasing the number of cardholders. A recent seminar in Sweden focused on supporting EYCA's Swedish member organisation, Mecenat, to support youth policy development in Sweden through closer engagement with the Ministry for Education and with the Swedish Youth Council.
- 1.6 A specific plan has been created to establish EYCA member organisations in territories where there are none. The plan identifies four clear priority territories for establishing new EYCA member organisations:
  - England
  - France
  - Germany
  - TurkeySteps have been taken in all four territories to identify new member organisations. Negotiations are underway with specific organisations in England, Germany and Turkey, whilst an approach based on working with existing regional cards in France is being developed.

- 1.7 Specific action is also identified in the 'White Territories' action plan relating to the following countries:
- Albania
  - Denmark
  - Moldova
  - Northern Ireland
  - Norway
  - Wales
- EYCA expects to announce new member organisations in Norway and Albania in the next few months.

## 2. Council of Europe and EYCA shared strategy for increasing membership of the Partial Agreement

- 2.1 Council of Europe wants to continue to develop engagement with member states who have already expressed interest in Partial Agreement:
- Albania
  - Armenia
  - Bosnia Hercegovina
  - Georgia
  - Macedonia
  - Morocco
  - Russia
  - Turkey
- 2.2 Council of Europe wants to develop a strategy which combines large member states with the ability to impact on large numbers of young people and bring significant resources to the Partial agreement with smaller member states who have already demonstrated enthusiasm to join Partial Agreement.
- 2.3 There is limited time and resources available to invest in engaging potential Partial Agreement member states. The following priorities are identified for action on encouraging sign-up to Partial Agreement during 2013:
- **Albania**  
The Albanian Government has already expressed some interest in Partial Agreement. With EYCA soon to announce a new member organisation in Albania, now is a good time for further action.
  - **Georgia**  
Academy for Peace and Development (EYCA's member organisation in Georgia) has already identified closer working with Government as a key priority. A new government in Georgia presents a new opportunity to engage in discussion on PA.
  - **Italy**  
Carta Giovani (EYCA's member organization in Italy) has established strong working relationships with several regional authorities across Italy. Through recent participation in EYCA's Maximising Impact programme, it has been identified that late spring 2013, following general elections in Italy, would be a good time to approach the Italian Government to ask them to consider re-joining PA.
  - **Morocco**  
Previous communication with Council of Europe suggested that the Moroccan Government was ready to sign Partial Agreement. Contact will be re-established by Council of Europe to follow up on this discussion. Council of Europe will identify the appropriate person for EYCA to invite to a seminar on Youth Cards: A tool for Youth Mobility in Madrid in December.
  - **Poland**

Polish Youth Projects Association (EYCA's member organization in Poland) plans to hold a seminar similar to the recent Swedish seminar to engage with relevant government representatives in Poland in spring 2013. Membership of Partial Agreement will be an explicit part of the discussion at this event.

- **Sweden**

One of the follow up steps to the recent EYCA seminar in Gothenburg is to invite the Swedish Government representative to the Coordinating Board of Partial Agreement and to seek their support for Partial Agreement.

- **Russia**

Russian Government previously declared its intention to sign the Partial Agreement as part of the package of hosting EYCA's 2012 General Assembly in Moscow/Yaroslavl. This was postponed indefinitely in light of national elections during 2012. Council of Europe will consider the best approach as part of managing its overall relationship with Russia on youth policy issues.

- **Turkey**

Turkish membership of Partial Agreement and of EYCA is a major priority for both Council of Europe and for EYCA. A concerted effort is proposed to engage with relevant bodies in Turkey. A mission to Ankara in early 2013 is proposed. Participants in this mission should include representatives from PA Board of Coordination, Council of Europe and EYCA. EYCA member organisations with initiatives relating to specific concerns for the Turkish Government should be identified e.g. Young Scot's Youth Commission on Alcohol; Austria's collaboration between European Youth Cards and the Ministry of Tourism; or Croatia's cooperation between youth hostels and youth cards.