

**DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION OF THE PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT
BETWEEN ERYICA AND THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE
IN 2021**

1. Webinar series

The year 2020 was certainly and fundamentally marked by the Covid-19 pandemic. Practically all sectors and organisations had to adapt to a profoundly different reality overnight. Alternative solutions had to be found to activities and operations that seemed natural beforehand and online formulae were often the key.

Youth information and counselling services, as always, adapted promptly to the new circumstances. Members of the youth information providers launched new services in new ways in order to help young people find their way in the unknown – that is, they kept their mission and adapted their tools and targets accordingly. The success of these services was recognised not only by their users, but also by international organisations such as the UNESCO (Media and Information Literacy Sector) and the Council of Europe itself. A compilation of good practices of youth policy and youth work responses to the COVID-19 crisis was published on the [Council of Europe website](#).

Building both on the success of the adaptation and the outputs of these efforts, ERYICA proposes to follow this path in the core part of the Partnership Agreement in 2021. Besides all the negative impact of the public health situation, it gave nonetheless a boost to the mainstreaming and development of online solutions. Furthermore, virtual events have the added benefit of being more environmentally friendly, having a wider outreach both geographically and in numbers, and as we saw it, they can take place independently of restrictions that may affect face-to-face encounters.

Without replacing face-to-face events when more appropriate and possible, ERYICA plans to increase the number of online events and their outreach in 2021. Their core purpose would be sharing inventive solutions and good practice in 4 different topics related to the core purpose of the Partnership Agreement and current areas of interest for youth information services. The events would take place over the year 2021 and have a somewhat inventive format themselves, which would make them different from a simple online meeting or webinar. Graphic recording, professional facilitation and the use of diverse, interactive tools would increase their value, among others.

The series of four webinars could explore some of the following thematic areas:

- Youth information and counselling services reacting to the COVID-19 crisis situation;
- Young people's needs in a post-pandemic Europe: the role of youth information;
- Media and information literacy against the infodemic;
- The European Youth Information Quality Label;
- e-Learning opportunities for youth information workers;
- Greening youth information services;
- Service Design in youth information;
- Digitalisation and artificial intelligence;
- "Liaisons" manual: helping youth workers and youth organisations get familiar with the toolkit in order to foresee ways to use it and promote it on national and local level.

A poll will be run among youth information providers across Europe to determine the most interesting

themes to address in 2021. The selection will be made based on the poll results.

2. European Youth Information Quality Label

The Quality Label, developed in the framework of the present partnership in 2019-2020, will be launched and applications will be accepted for it from 1 January 2021. It will be a very important year in the process of establishing a recognised quality tool in youth information and counselling.

Following the theoretical framework development (2019) and the piloting phase and finetuning (2020), 2021 will be the first operational year of the Quality Label. To ensure the most competent co-ordination from the beginning, we are set out to establish the European Quality Label Task Force, the successor of the Working Group that developed the Label itself. It is seeking to involve the most relevant experience, know-how and overview in this body, hence an open call for applications will be published to gather the different profiles set by the Terms of Reference (ToR). The current members of the European Quality Label Working Group can apply for the seats that match their profile and interest, in order to ensure continuity.

The ERYICA Secretariat will ensure the practical management of the process, while applications will be assessed by the Task Force. The ToR of this Task Force were submitted with the final report of the Partnership Agreement at the end of 2019. The planned profile of its members is the following:

- Co-ordinated by an ERYICA Governing Board member (1);
- ERYICA Member representatives based on an open call (4);
- Youth Ambassadors (2);
- An ERYICA Secretariat representative (1);
- Upon invitation: specialists working in the field in question, not covered by the Task Force; and temporary co-opted member in the case of non-ERYICA member countries and language issues.

3. Update of “Liaisons” and dissemination activities for publications

The “Liaisons” manual, developed in the framework of the Grant Agreement in 2017-2018, has been translated to English, Dutch, Spanish and Azerbaijani since then, while expressions of interest have been received for a translation into Catalan (with the support of IVAJ) and into Portuguese (with the support of IPDJ). During the latest translation process, it was realised that an update of the manual is desirable. There have been new developments in the prevention of violent radicalisation among young people and the overall situation has changed as well, just like certain tools and activities proposed by the manual. We propose a general update of the “Liaisons” manual in 2021 with the help of an external expert competent in the field, preferably one of the authors of the manual.

Alternatively, there exists a possibility of developing an online “Liaisons”, an interactive online resource, which would provide an enhanced user experience compared to the PDF version.

The “Youth Information 2020” publication, prepared under the Grant Agreement of 2020, is foreseen for December 2020. As a new publication, it will require that all its promotion takes place in 2021.

Some examples of events where the “Liaisons” manual, the Youth Information 2020 booklet and previous publications of the Council of Europe-ERYICA partnership may be promoted:

- Youth information events and working groups;
- European Youth Card Association (EYCA) General Assembly;
- Eurodesk General Assembly;

- Events at local, regional and national levels organised by youth information and counselling providers;
- Relevant events organised by Ministries at national or regional level;
- ERYICA Youth Ambassadors framework events;
- Relevant events organised by the Council of Europe;
- Relevant events organised by the European Youth Forum;
- Relevant events organised by National Youth Councils;
- Relevant events organised by IYNGOs;
- Events organised by the European Commission and/or the EU-Council of Europe youth partnership;
- The European Youth Event (EYE);
- The University on Youth and Development (UYD) of the North-South Centre;
- Mediterranean University on Youth and Global Citizenship (North-South Centre);
- Events organised by UNESCO;
- The Global Week on Media and Information Literacy and GAPMIL events;
- Relevant events organised by the Commonwealth Secretariat in the field of youth;
- Relevant events organised by National Agencies; and
- Any other relevant events that come up over the course of the year.

In order to achieve a wider promotion of the “Youth Information 2020” publication, the “Ensuring Quality in Youth Information and Counselling” brochure, the “Liaisons” manual and other Council of Europe-ERYICA joint publications, a number of meetings will take place between ERYICA staff, ERYICA representatives, governmental representatives from the Council of Europe member states, youth organisations and organisations interested in youth information, youth work, as well as other relevant stakeholders.

ERYICA will also use its wide-reaching online presence to disseminate the publications, through social media channels (such as Twitter, Facebook, Instagram), emails, the ERYICA website and newsletters. Such a wide array of channels will permit to reach a large audience of stakeholders from all over Europe.