



**Presentation of the main outcomes of the consultative meeting  
on a Council of Europe youth sector strategy 2030**

**by Howard Williamson (General Rapporteur)**

# DEEP, VALUE-DRIVEN PATHWAYS TO DEMOCRACY

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REPORT OF THE CONSULTATIVE MEETING (15-16 MAY 2018) FOR THE  
DEVELOPMENT OF A COUNCIL OF EUROPE MID-TERM YOUTH SECTOR STRATEGY  
2030

**PRESENTATION TO JOINT COUNCIL ON YOUTH 16<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2018**

Howard Williamson

## BACKGROUND AND AIM

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- FROM 'AGENDA 2020' TO A COUNCIL OF EUROPE YOUTH SECTOR STRATEGY 2030
- JOINT COUNCIL ROADMAP ADOPTED IN MARCH 2017
- YOUTH DEPARTMENT RETREAT FEBRUARY 2018
- YOUTH SECTOR CONSULTATIVE MEETING MAY 2018
- MEETING REPORT AND NEXT STEPS
- JOINT COUNCIL ON YOUTH OCTOBER 2018

## INTRODUCTION

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- **'AGENDA 2020' – THE YOUTH POLICY OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE (2008)**

- HUMAN RIGHTS, DEMOCRACY AND THE RULE OF LAW
- LIVING TOGETHER IN DIVERSE SOCIETIES
- SOCIAL INCLUSION OF YOUNG PEOPLE

- **THE NEXT YOUTH STRATEGY**

- FLEXIBILITY, INNOVATION, RESPONSIVENESS
- COMMITMENT TO VALUES AND STANDARDS
- EMBRACING CONTINUITY AND CHANGE
- A BAROMETER FOR PARTNERS & A COMMUNICATION TOOL

## RELEVANCE

### THE CHANGING SOCIAL AND POLITICAL LANDSCAPE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN EUROPE

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- DRIVERS OF CHANGE

- **TECHNOLOGICAL** – digital divide, cultural and life-styles, methods of communication
- **DEMOGRAPHIC** – ageing societies, inter-generational relations, resource distribution

- CONTEXTS OF CHANGE

- **PERSONAL** – vulnerability, lack of support, health and well-being: inequalities & exclusion
- **SOCIAL** – access to EET, opps for NFE and youth work, precarity/poverty, migration crisis
- **CIVIC** – lack of trust, disconnection, lack of voice, alternative platforms
- **POLITICAL** – terror, radicalisation, rise of the Right, populism, nationalism, failing democracy

## WORKING TOGETHER COLLABORATION AT THE HEART OF COUNCIL OF EUROPE YOUTH SECTOR POLICY AND PRACTICE

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- CORE COLLABORATIONS
  - Youth Department, European Youth Centres, European Youth Foundation
  - European Steering Committee (CDEJ), Advisory Council – Joint Council on Youth
  - EU-CoE Youth Partnership
- PARTNERSHIP AND PARTIAL AGREEMENTS
  - European Youth Information and Counselling Agency (ERYICA); European Youth Card Association (EYCA)
- CO-MANAGEMENT
  - High level Joint Council work is replicated for the preparation of events and training courses
  - Representation; distribution of power; recognition; participation; dissemination

## MULTIPLIER EFFECTS A EUROPEAN AND LOCAL STRATEGY

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- MULTIPLICATION, CASCADING – exactly what?
  - How much *within* and how much *beyond* the Council of Europe youth sector? Reach?
- AVOID TOO MUCH ARITHMETIC!
  - Investment in people
  - Quality standards – knowledge, skills and values/attitudes
- NEED FOR MORE ROBUST DOCUMENTATION AND DISSEMINATION
  - Map the nature and routes by which CoE experience is transferred
  - Acknowledge the challenges and barriers that 'multipliers' often face
  - Consider more strategic 'target groups'
  - Strengthen communication to partners within and beyond the youth sector and the youth field

## INTER-INSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS A SHARED CONTEXT FOR DEVELOPMENT **MAINTAIN, DEVELOP, INNOVATE**

- AN EXPANDED AND MORE COMPLEX FIELD
  - A Market Place with greater competition for (increased?) resources
  - A need for 'constituency-building' (shared values, interests, mutuality and trust)?
- STRENGTHENED INTER-INSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS
  - Communication and Co-operation between the EU and the CoE, notably through the Partnership and its more stable work priorities
  - A greater identity for youth work
  - Recognition of the work of the CoE during EU Presidencies – more coherence and synergy?
  - A more consolidated approach to youth research, policy and practice across the youth field

AN AGENDA FOR MAINTENANCE, DEVELOPMENT AND INNOVATION

## ISSUES FOR MAINTENANCE DEVELOPMENT AND INNOVATION? A MOSAIC OF CONTINUITY AND CHANGE

Policy Knowledge/Research Practice	CONTINUE/ MAINTAIN	DEVELOP/ DIVERSIFY	INNOVATE/ EXPERIMENT
SOCIAL RIGHTS	Equalities ENTER! Access	Social Inclusion	Well-being Right to privacy Digital rights
REVITALISING DEMOCRACY		Citizenship Enabling environments Participation	E-democracy Internet governance
ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP	Autonomy Democracy Non-formal education	Youth work	Sustainable dev Media literacy Critical thinking
HUMAN RIGHTS	Access to social rights ETE Gender equality	Formal & informal ed LGTBI issues Peace-building	Employment Social protection Enabling environments

## DISTINCTION THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE YOUTH SECTOR'S PLACE IN EUROPE TODAY

- THE EU's 'Engage, Connect, Empower' framework for its next youth strategy
- The wider youth field's unattributed use of CoE methodologies and themes
- The Council of Europe's clarification of its 'youth support' framework for its member S



## DISTINCTION 2 SO WHAT IS DISTINCTIVE ABOUT THE WORK OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE YOUTH DEPARTMENT?

	Beneficiaries	Governments
On what do we work with the Council of Europe Youth Department rather than with others?	Human rights frameworks, standards & publications Co-management partnerships and authentic 'trialogue' Support for CSOs & NGOs Understanding and support for youth policy and practice	Values Trust Co-management Innovation Pan-European coverage – an inclusive platform for dialogue
What does the Council of Europe Youth Department offer that others cannot?	NGO training, support, recognition, capacity-building Collaborative methodology Equality Democracy in practice Safe, developmental spaces Networks – social capital	Knowledge Adaptability Tools, expertise and standards An external view on internal youth policy & practice Institutional co-operation Capacity-building and policy assistance measures 'Models of good behaviour' A 'unique spirit' for youth policy development
What does the Council of Europe Youth Department guarantee us that no-one else can guarantee?	Involvement in the whole process – planning, execution and evaluation Expertise and networking 'Root and branch' participation (not just co-management)	Co-management (guarantor of youth voice/participation) Transparency and equal partnership 'Specificities' – responses very focused on content Quality, continuity and sustainability



## DISTINCTION 3

### CLUSTERING THE TESTIMONY

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- **Principled** – grounded, trusted, transparent, respectful, collaborative and 'anchored'
- **Procedural** – institutional co-operation, long-term planning, innovation, pilot projects
  - 'participatory build strategy'
- **Policy-oriented** – external view, support measures, opportunity-focused, 'user-friendly'
- **Practical** – tools, expertise, capacity-building, knowledge and skills, cohesive & coherent

• A 'unique spirit' providing 'models of good behaviour' and a 'secure platform' for experiential and other forms of learning

## RESOURCES

### METHODOLOGIES AND INSTRUMENTS

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- **Human resources**
  - Staff of the Youth Department and the Partnership; CDEJ/AC; PEYR/EKCYP/Trainers' Pool
- **Physical resources**
  - European Youth Centres; centres with the Quality Label
- **The wider legacy**
  - Innovative standards
  - The Partnership and other partnerships and partial agreements
  - Inter-governmental co-operation
  - Landmark campaigns
  - Specific educational methodologies
  - Dedicated publications and training materials
  - The promotion and recognition of non-formal learning, youth work and youth policy

## OUTPUT AN INDICATIVE CHECKLIST

Human rights education	Access to social rights	Democratic citizenship	Youth participation	Roma youth and combating anti-gypsyism
Young refugees asylum-seekers and displaced persons	Young people in vulnerable situations	Young people with disabilities and mixed abilities	Gender equality	Heteronormativity, homophobia, biphobia and transphobia
Intersectionality and multiple discrimination	Environment and sustainable development	Youth information, counselling and coaching	Intercultural learning and appreciation of diversity	Combating racism and discrimination
Islamophobia	Peace-building and conflict transformation	Flight and migration	Global solidarity	Young people facing violence and exclusion
Young Muslims in Europe	Social inclusion	Transition to autonomy and the labour market	Access to sports	Intergenerational solidarity

## DISTINCTION 4 A SECURE, SUPPORTIVE AND PARTICIPATIVE SPACE FOR LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT

- The European Youth Centres as a site for educational practice – cultivating the development of ideas
- The European Youth Foundation as a source for youth work practice – supporting innovation and development in the field

- **Future priorities? Balancing old and new?**
- **More for less? Doing things differently?**

*The approach is unique. Other institutions may do similar things – training, publications, symposia – but it is the process and quality of participation and assurance that is unique*

## HARNESSING THE POWER OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE YOUTH SECTOR ENLISTING AND SUSTAINING A COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

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- Our DOMAIN of interest, Our COMMUNITY, and Our PRACTICE
- Across both the internal structures and wider relationships
- Extensive, inclusive, wide-ranging
- Consolidated and developed over 50 years
- Pioneering – young Roma, LGBTI young people, young refugees, young people from minorities
- **But now an even more outward-looking, promotional position may need adopting** – municipalities, new institutional players, beyond youth organisations [???

## DEMONSTRATING SUCCESS INDICATORS AND MEASURES OF OUTCOME AND IMPACT

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- Our Theory of Change?
- Outputs are very clear
- Outcomes and Impact – more elusive
- Dealing with pressures for outcome measurement within process-driven work
- Reach and impact: the 'right' people, the 'right' target groups, the 'real' impact
- Reliance on intermediaries making different contributions
  - government officials, young politicians, youth workers, young people
- Responding to need v. Promoting the vision



## MAPPING THE BOUNDARIES REALISM, REACH AND REPRESENTATION

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- **Defining the challenge (being 'realistic')**
  - Priorities within expressions of 'need'; understanding capacity and dependency; balancing directions of travel (bottom up / top down)
- **Understanding the limits of 'reach'**
  - Who does the Youth Department reach?; feasibility of reaching others; barriers to wider engagement (cf language)
- **Considering the arguments for broader 'representation'**
  - Beyond youth organisations?; local authorities; open youth work...?

## TWO CONUNDRUMS INDIVIDUAL AND INSTITUTIONAL

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- **INDIVIDUAL**
  - Council of Europe participation experience and individual 'empowerment' now deeply embedded (so no clear association) within numerous systems in the youth field through professional practice
- **INSTITUTIONAL**
  - Diffusion of issues and methodologies that derived from the work of the Council of Europe across the expanding 'youth sector' market, with little memory or acknowledgement; others providing funding or services get the credit!

- **How should this be addressed?**

## CONCLUSION

### KEY IMPERATIVES FOR ACHIEVING DEPTH IN A NEW STRATEGY

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- Since Agenda 2020 (2008), three key changes have taken place that will need to be carefully and explicitly acknowledged and accommodated within a new strategy
  1. What counts as evidence of **outcome and impact**?
  2. What are the **distinctive benefits** that accrue through the Council of Europe youth sector?
  3. Need to **promote, position, and prove**: depth and breadth; place in a new political, social and professional landscape; justify investment of human and financial resources