Partial Agreement on Youth Mobility through the Youth Card

43rd meeting of the Board of Co-ordination

Strasbourg, 14 October 2019

PARTIAL AGREEMENT WORK PROGRAMME 2019

IMPLEMENTATION

The work programme 2019 of the Partial Agreement on Youth Mobility through the Youth Card has strived to accurately meet the needs of the stakeholders of both the Partial Agreement as well as of the national member organisations of its statutory partner - the European Youth Card Association (EYCA).

Having in mind the priorities of the 2018-2019 programme of activities of the Council of Europe’s Youth Sector adopted by the Joint Council on Youth, the Partial Agreement together with the European Youth Card Association have contributed or will contribute till the end of 2019 to the achievement of these objectives through:

- the encouragement of young people’s active participation in democratic processes through various models of youth participation;

- the support of the youth work development in member states and the implementation of the Recommendation CM/Rec(2017)4 on youth work on national level;

- the support of the development of young people’s media literacy skills (contribution to the follow-up of the NHSM Campaign) and young people’s access to information and counselling.
Events

1. The Seminar on “Youth Work and sustainable communities: the role of the European Youth Card in delivering youth card services” was the first event of the year. It took place on 5-7 May 2019 in Helsinki, Finland, in the framework of the Finnish Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers.

The Youth Department wishes to thank the Finnish Ministry for Education and Culture for a substantial financial contribution to this seminar.

As one of the leading European countries in promoting qualitative youth work services, Finland was chosen as the perfect location to host the seminar of this kind.

The seminar’s objectives were to:

a) explore the understanding of ‘youth work services’ and the variety of models across Council of Europe countries;

b) promote the importance of youth work in building sustainable communities, based on access to rights and social inclusion of vulnerable young people;

c) consider the role of the European Youth Card in implementing specific Council of Europe legislation, in particular, the Committee of Ministers’ Recommendation on Youth Work.

The seminar, as a follow-up to the Finnish Chairmanship seminar “Educational Pathways for Youth Workers” (20-22 February 2019, Helsinki), offered space to learn from the Finnish model of youth work.

In their evaluations, the participants stated that the seminar was very intensive, the speakers were excellent, their contributions were intellectually entertaining as well as thought- and action provoking. The overall high quality of the event was underlined. The visit to one of the most famous youth centres in Helsinki was appreciated. Several of the contributors underlined their satisfaction that at this event they knew less than 10% of the participants and were not “preaching to the usual suspects”. Apart from the Finnish hosts, speakers and the organisers, there were 32 participants, a usual-sized group for that kind of a seminar. That size of the group allowed for an excellent networking among the participants.

It was very positive that the participants – NGOs, EYCA member organisations, local and national authorities - were made aware of the Committee of Ministers’ Recommendation on Youth Work and came up with concrete proposals to advance with its implementation.

For more information please refer to the full report of the seminar.

2. The second event of the year will take place right after the meetings of the youth sector’s statutory bodies on 17-18 October 2019 in Strasbourg, France:
the seminar “Exploring different models of democratic participation: fostering youth participation through the European Youth Card”.

It is organised to support the recognition of various forms of participation in community and democratic societies and to explore the different ways in which the EYC can be a tool for engagement of all young people.

The participation of young people in decision-making processes – political, civic, civil or other – fosters their active citizenship, enhances their inclusion, and strengthens their contribution to the advancement of democracy. It is essential, therefore, to foster this participation. One of the Council of Europe youth sector’s strategic objectives is to support young people’s constructive attitude to influence decisions in democratic processes – at national, regional or local levels.

In this context, social media clearly create new opportunities for voice, for action and possibly influence. But they create risks too as engagement with participatory politics might not always develop in positive ways. It will be a challenge for policy-makers, educational professionals, researchers, etc. to keep pace with the rapid use of digital media by youth.

The seminar will aim at:

a) offering space for debate and recognition of the variety of forms in which young people make their voices heard, including through digital means;

b) exploring ways in which the European Youth Card can be a tool to reach out to disengaged young people and engage them into active constructive participation.

3. The third event will take place on 12-13 November 2019 in Brussels, Belgium, and will be a traditional promotional Seminar “Mainstreaming youthmobility in policies at all levels”. It is organised as a response to the interest voiced by a number of states not yet party to the Partial Agreement to learn more about it, as well as about the youth card and its implementation.

The objectives of the Seminar are the following:

1. to promote the European Youth Card as a tool for policy development and implementation, at local, regional, national and European levels, especially towards governmental representatives of states who did not yet sign the Partial Agreement on Youth Mobility;

2. to share good practices on how the EYC is developed by EYCA members and get hands-on experience on how the youth card is used to provide services to young people at all levels.

4. Presentations to the CDEJ and the Board of Co-ordination

Updated presentations on the activities of the Partial Agreement and the development of the European Youth Card continue to be made at all meetings of the CDEJ and the Board of Co-ordination in 2019.