



European Youth Card Association

European Youth Card Association

Aleksandra Knežević, Chair of Coordinating Board for PA on
Youth Mobility

Bob Forsyth, Director, EYCA

***Developing Partial Agreement on Youth
Mobility***

Budapest, April 2013



European Youth Card Association

“Developing better youth mobility for young people and for Europe”

- A CoE/EYCA seminar, March 2013 in Andorra
- part of Andorra’s Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe
- Participants from 22 countries



European Youth Card Association

**Dr David Cairns - Centre for Research and Studies in
Sociology, University Institute of Lisbon**

- An academic perspective

- Youth mobility matters for young people's personal development, education and career
- Youth mobility matters for societies which are affected by migration and demographic change
- Youth mobility is under-researched - the knowledge is scattered, incoherent
- International youth mobility is currently controversial:

“the desire for mobility is being stimulated but the possibilities /ability to move are decreased.”



European Youth Card Association

Jacques Spelkens, Head of Corporate Social Responsibility, GDF Suez

- An employer perspective

- As an international employer (230,000 employees in 72 countries) we have a deep interest in youth mobility
- new talents and skills have to be encouraged at an earlier age
- We are interested in the “savoir faire” (technical skills and competencies) but increasingly important to us is the “savoir ete” (personal attitudes and social skills such as team work and time planning)

“Careers are no longer linear as they used to be and our new keyword is flexicurity - flexibility from both employee and employer combined with more security for employees (e.g. in terms of better supported mobility) and for employers retaining the best staff to develop their business.”



European Youth Card Association

Morana Markovec, Croatian Ministry of Social Policy and Youth

- A policy maker's perspective

- In our recent “Youth In Crisis” study, 25% of 15-27 year olds consider moving abroad - youth mobility is a policy issue

“For a country threatened by depopulation, that fact is a worrying trend.”

- Lack of real evidence makes it difficult to make effective policy on youth mobility
- Our response is to: monitor indicators and trends; support new research; include mobility in the National Youth Programme, improve inter-sectoral cooperation in Government



European Youth Card Association

Natalja Turenne, Council of Europe

- A European perspective

- There is a need for clearer definitions related to youth mobility
 - CoE needs to re-think its approach to youth mobility
- “since the last CoE conference on youth mobility in 1991 the reality of Europe and its young people has changed dramatically”*
- Partial Agreement is one of the key tools for CoE to impact on youth mobility and it is important to use it to address the issues highlighted in this seminar



European Youth Card Association

Jarkko Lehikoinen, President of EYCA

- A European perspective

- European mobility programmes touch only a small proportion of young people in Europe
- European Youth Cards can reach large numbers of young people - currently around 5 million cardholders
- Employability is one aspect of mobility which is crucially important for young people in Europe today which we have a responsibility to consider

“we want to work with CoE to make sure that we make a difference to the real issues in the lives of young people today”



European Youth Card Association

Workshop feedback: Definitions of Mobility

- More effective mobility? More effective than what? We need better baseline evidence
- Different functional definitions are needed - we always need to clarify what type of mobility we are talking about in order to define
- Learning mobility is a common thread for all of us: But important to define what kinds of learning?
 - There is still some specific interest in youth tourism as a means of promoting inter-cultural learning
 - But important to note that crossing a border doesn't necessarily lead to intercultural learning. This needs to be accompanied by some kind of learning experience
 - Is the council of Europe 1990 definition still relevant - emphasizes intercultural learning but does not really reflect employability and border learning mobility
 - There is very little evidence that early mobility experiences lead to transnational labour market mobility - this should be explored more
 - Overall conclusion: there are lots of assumptions around this discussion and we need harder evidence



European Youth Card Association

Workshop feedback: Particular youth mobility issues for countries outside of EU

- Restructuring visa regimes:
 - more access to longer-term visa options
 - reduce bureaucracy (e.g. use more visa centres; applying online - avoid travelling to embassies)
 - preferential approaches for NGOs
 - should be free of charge for certain activities (culture, education-related)
 - loosen requirements that you first need a travel ticket - if visas are rejected you lose your ticket costs
- Support increased presence of EU-supported youth NGOs in countries outside of EU
- Better information and promotion of opportunities for young people
- Increase awareness and promotion of European Youth Cards - access to discounts not always recognized by discount providers



European Youth Card Association

Workshop feedback: Developing the Partial Agreement

- Governments need to understand youth cards more: need for more opportunities for knowledge exchange and learning/training for Governments
- Platform for all stakeholders (researchers, policy-makers, practitioners) on youth mobility and the use of youth cards
- Data collection on youth mobility to help all stakeholders understand trends; specific studies to be commissioned
- Contribute to national youth policy reviews on youth mobility
- Create a specific working group on particular issues: such as visa issues and how youth cards can play a role (of specific interest e.g. to Ukraine, Russia and Turkey)



European Youth Card Association

Ideas for Developing Partial Agreement's role

- Support governments with knowledge about youth mobility
- Facilitate experts to generate knowledge about youth mobility
- Connect new and existing knowledge to policy and practice which supports mobility
- Offer preferential access to knowledge opportunities for PA contributing countries



European Youth Card Association

... and in practice what could this look like:

- Youth mobility seminar roadshow - 4 x seminars per year
- Offer to PA countries to apply for fully paid for seminars to bring this to their government and stakeholders
- Work with seminar host member state to develop specific content to reflect on specific mobility themes for their country
- Produce publications as a result



European Youth Card Association

... and the next steps to making that happen:

- Presentation to PRs at Council of Europe in July 2013
- EYCA study session in Strasbourg on youth mobility partnerships - bringing together EYCA member organisations, national youth councils and youth information providers
- Engage other stakeholders such as CoE/EU Partnership on youth
- Draft work plan for PA 2014-2015 circulated to the Coordinating Board for PA
- Agree work plan at Coordinating Board meeting in October 2013