

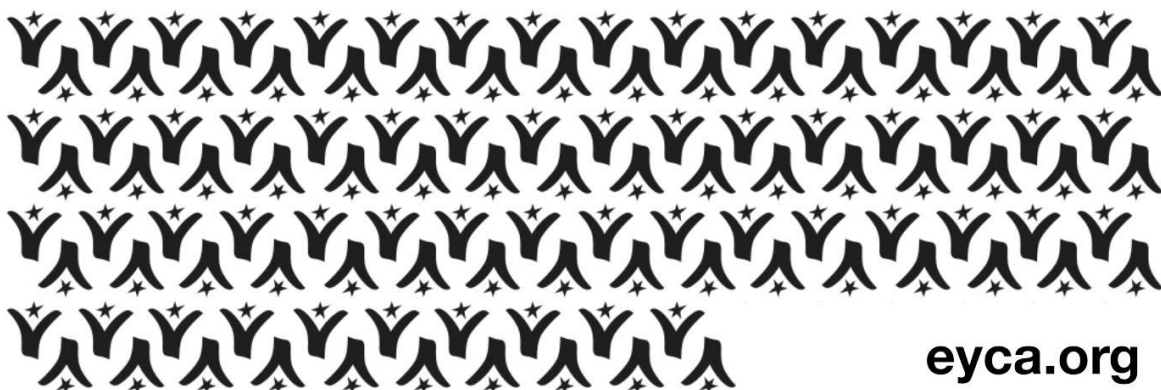


New challenges and opportunities for innovative youth services. The role of the European Youth Card in promoting the rights of young people in post-covid era

5-6 November 2020,
Athens, Greece

Seminar of the Partial Agreement on Youth Mobility through the Youth Card of the COUNCIL OF EUROPE and the European Youth Card Association (EYCA)

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS



eyca.org

Context

The seminar “**New challenges and opportunities for innovative youth services. The role of the European Youth Card in promoting the rights of young people in post-Covid era**” is planned to take place in Athens, Greece, on 5-6 November 2020 with an aim to support the recognition of the potential of youth work services deployed on-line and the role of the European Youth Card in reaching out to young people.

The seminar is part of the Greek Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe for the period of May – November 2020: <https://coegreekchairmanship2020.gov.gr/list-of-events-of-the-greek-chairmanship/?lang=en>

Greece, member of the Council of Europe since August 1949, has assumed its chairmanship in the emergency circumstances imposed by the Covid-19 pandemic. In this context, the Greek Chairmanship highlights the following thematic priorities:

- a) defining the implications of the pandemic on European societies, democracies and the economy at large,
- b) identifying lessons learned from the Covid-19 pandemic crisis, as well as best practices in response to the crisis.

See link https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result_details.aspx?ObjectId=09000016809e53c3

(priorities of the Greek Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers)

The Greek Chairmanship recognises that “Digital technologies, with the expanded opportunities they offer, help significantly to fill the gap created by the lack of physical presence in a series of life manifestations, while, at the same time, supporting the exercise of human rights.”

Youth features quite prominently within the priorities of the Greek Chairmanship with one of them entitled “Investing in the future - The rights of young people”.

The current seminar thus brings together several important aspects of the Greek Chairmanship’s priorities: response to the challenges posed by the pandemic, digital technologies as one of such responses, and young people and the promotion of their rights.

For more information, here below are the links to the social media sites of the Greek Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers:

Website: www.coegreekchairmanship2020.gov.gr

Facebook: [@coegreekchairmanship2020](https://www.facebook.com/coegreekchairmanship2020),

Twitter: [@coe2020gr](https://twitter.com/coe2020gr),

YouTube: [Greek Chairmanship Council of Europe](https://www.youtube.com/GreekChairmanshipCouncilofEurope)

The Seminar is organised by the Council of Europe and its Partial Agreement on Youth Mobility in co-operation with the Greek authorities and the European Youth Card Association (EYCA).

About the organisers

The **Council of Europe** is the leading Pan-European international intergovernmental organisation standing for the defence of **human rights, democracy and the rule of law**. Its Youth Sector has been promoting inclusive, human-rights based youth policies and youth work¹. Over the past years, the Council of Europe has been working on challenges and opportunities that present the use of digital tools, including in its effort to effectively support youth workers².

The **Partial Agreement on Youth Mobility through the Youth Card** exists since 1991 and is a programme of the Council of Europe aimed at developing the youth card scheme, particularly at European level, in the best interests of young people with a view to facilitating their mobility as well as access to the various goods and services necessary for their personal and cultural development. The Partial Agreement implements its activities in co-operation with its statutory partner – EYCA.

The **European Youth Card Association (EYCA)** groups around 38 youth card organisations all over Europe. EYCA's vision is a Europe where all young people are mobile and active (socially, culturally, educationally and economically). EYCA's mission to reach this objective consists in delivering quality youth card services and in contributing to a better policy on youth mobility and active citizenship. Today, over six million youth cardholders benefit from youth card opportunities.

The **Greek Ministry for Education and Religious Affairs** is one of the oldest Ministries in the country, established in 1833, responsible for running the national education system and supervising religious affairs. Its General Secretariat for Youth was set up in 1982 as a governmental institution with the primary task of shaping, monitoring and coordinating the government policy for youth.

About the seminar

The proposed seminar aims to offer space for policymakers, practitioners, researchers, youth NGOs and EYCA organisations to debate the main challenges and opportunities in relation to youth work, youth services and young people's rights in the context of a public health crisis provoked by COVID-19. Guests will discuss policy development issues and share good practices, while analysing the impact of the pandemic on the European youth sector. We will explore the various ways in which digital tools and Artificial Intelligence (AI) can be used to provide quality services to young people and help to safeguard their rights.

¹ See Recommendation CM/Rec(2017)4 of the Committee of Ministers to member States **on youth work** <https://www.coe.int/en/web/youth/adopted-texts>

² Some of most recent examples are:

- Up-date of the **Council of Europe Youth Work Portfolio** <https://www.coe.int/en/web/youth-portfolio>
- Seminar on Artificial Intelligence and its impact on young people (4-6 December 2020, Strasbourg) <https://www.coe.int/en/web/youth/artificial-intelligence>

The main objectives of the event are to:

- a) explore innovative ways of promotion and outreach to young people during the pandemic and in a post-COVID, predominantly digital, era and the role of the European Youth Card in it;
- b) identify challenges and opportunities in youth work and define what can be the role of new technologies & AI;
- c) discuss the importance of and means to safeguard the rights of young people in socially and economically uncertain times.

The detailed programme of the event will be available in due time.

Profile of the participants

This seminar is open to participants with expertise in youth affairs/youth mobility, youth work and digitalisation:

- Governmental representatives of the member states of the States party to the European Cultural Convention³ ;
- Researchers in the above-mentioned fields;
- EYCA member organisations, partners and networks;
- International organisations;
- European youth organisations and civil society organisations;
- Young activists and non-organised young people from the States party to the European Cultural Convention (EES).

Practical information

The working language of the seminar will be **English**.

Application/expression of interest procedure

All candidates should express their interest by filling in the **application form** below (see Appendix I).

The applications should be sent to the following e-mail: youthmobility@coe.int by **Sunday 20 September midnight (CET)**.

The results of the selection procedure will be made known by the end of the week following the deadline.

A request for confirmation will be sent to all selected participants with a short deadline for replies. Following the confirmation, official invitation letters will be sent to the selected participants.

³ Forty-seven member states of the Council of Europe, Belarus, Holy See and Kazakhstan

Visas: Participants are kindly requested to check in advance whether they need a visa to enter Greece. If this is the case, the selected participants would need to fill in the table in Appendix II, join the copy of their passport and send them at the same time as their confirmation to participate in the seminar to youthmobility@coe.int. Participants needing a visa will be sent a **special invitation** for the purpose of acquiring a Schengen visa.

Visa fees will be refunded at the same time as international travel.

The detailed programme of the seminar will be forwarded to the selected participants with an Info Pack before the start of the seminar.

Transport

The selected participants are responsible for arranging their own travel in a most economical way. EYCA will reimburse international travel costs, upon receiving the justification documents, up to 300 euros. The tickets need to be booked if possible 30 days in advance before travelling. The selected participants would have to provide:

- Request for reimbursement (to be sent to all attendees in due time)
- E-ticket/ invoice / train/bus tickets and, where relevant, visa fees proof clearly showing the paid amount
- Traveling by car: 0.25 Euros/km, upon receiving the gas receipt

Please do not buy the tickets before confirmation from the organisers by early October that the seminar would take place in live format.

The participants will be covered by the Council of Europe travel insurance during their travel to and from the event as well as their stay in the host country during the entire seminar.

Venue meeting, board and lodging

The exact location of the event will be communicated at a later stage. Accommodation and meals will be provided by the hosts for all the participants during the entire event.

Extraordinary situation

Due to the evolving Covid-19 situation, the seminar might move on-line.

APPENDIX I

Application form/Expression of interest

PERSONAL DETAILS			
First name			
Last name			
Date of birth (dd/mm/yyyy)		Nationality	Gender (M/F)
Permanent address			
	Postal code		
	Town	Country	
Place of work			
Address of the employer			
Email			
Telephone (with country and city codes!)			
Mobile			
Emergency contact details			

DETAILS OF THE NOMINATING ORGANISATION			
Name of organisation			
Postal address			
	Zip code		
	City	Country	
Email address			
Telephone			
Fax			
Brief info about your organisation (field of work, activities etc.)			
What are your role and tasks within your organisation?			

Do you have any **special needs or requirements** that the hosting organisation should know about? (E.g. mobility, medical needs, allergies, dietary restrictions)

APPENDIX II

For participants who need a visa

Once your selection is confirmed, please fill in the following information (as spelled out in your passport) and **attach a copy of your passport:**

First name	
Last name	
Date of birth	
Passport number	
Time and place of issue	
Valid till	
Place where you will apply for a multiple Schengen visa	
Place of studying/ work and your position	
Address of the educational establishment/ employer	

DEADLINE – SUNDAY 20 SEPTEMBER 2020 MIDNIGHT CET

ALL APPLICATIONS SHOULD BE SENT TO
youthmobility@coe.int