

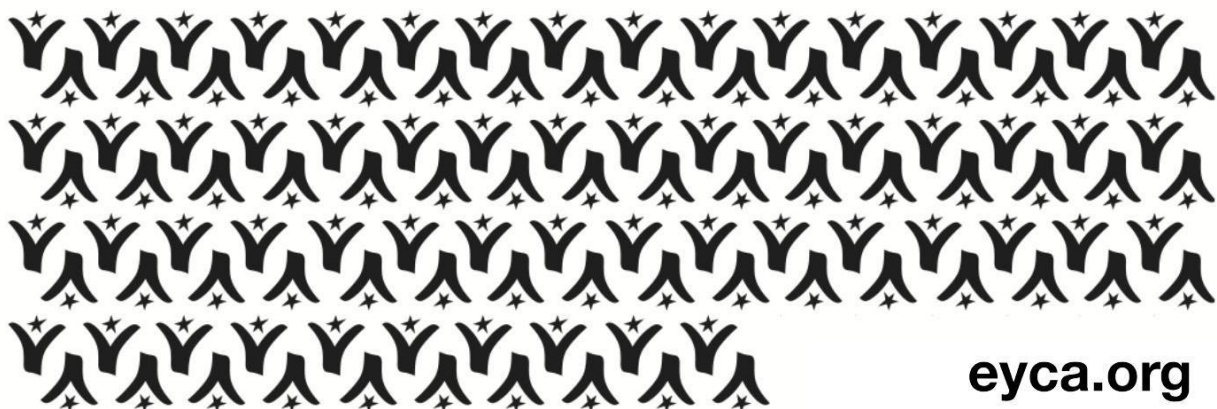
Partial Agreement Seminar

"Youth ecosystems essentials: the role of European Youth Card in advancing ecosystems for youth empowerment"

29-31 May 2024
Podgorica, Montenegro

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

CONCEPT AND DRAFT PROGRAMME



Introduction

There is a growing discussion in the European youth sector on the importance of creating and connecting youth public spaces, in what is called youth ecosystems. A *youth ecosystem* refers to the available spaces, services, trained professionals (expertise) and legal frameworks that allow young people to fully express themselves and be active citizens of our societies. While the vast majority of European countries have one or several of these elements, it is becoming a growing need to have an integrated approach to offering youth services and designing youth-friendly public spaces.

Youth work delivered in these spaces actively contributes to building skills, knowledge and resilience for strong and democratic communities. The European Youth Card can play a strategic role in helping design and strengthen youth ecosystems, as it is directly connected to:

- *Young people* as ultimate beneficiaries
- Public authorities at *local and national level*, given that most of EYC services are linked to youth policies and the EYC has a direct recognition from public institutions. Moreover, EYC is equally a tool for direct service providers at local level, especially in cases where municipality cooperation is enforced.
- *Private sector*, through the 30.000 benefits and discounts we offer, can also represent an avenue to foster investment in youth infrastructure
- *Youth programmes and good practices at European level*: from the Quality Label for Youth Centres of the Council of Europe to programmes such as the European Youth Capital.

Acting as a meeting point of different elements that make for a good youth ecosystem, the European Youth Card programme puts forward, in this PA seminar, a conversation that aims to:

- 1) Create synergies between public sector, youth card organisations, NGOs, young people and companies to youth ecosystems (spaces, services, programmes);
- 2) Offer a unique space for members of the PA on Youth Mobility to build stronger partnerships with the European Youth Card organisations in their countries;
- 3) Identify concrete ways on how European Youth Card can be embedded and play a crucial role in youth ecosystems at national and local levels.

About the organisers

The Partial Agreement on Youth Mobility through the Youth Card exists since 1991 and is a programme of the Council of Europe¹ 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 European Youth Card Association (EYCA) groups over 35 youth card organisations all over Europe and is the Partial Agreement's statutory partner. EYCA's vision is a Europe where all young people are mobile and active (socially, culturally, educationally and economically). EYCA's mission

¹ The Council of Europe is the leading Pan-European international organisation promoting inclusive, human-rights based youth policies.

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 eight million youth cardholders benefit from youth card opportunities.

The NGO Centre for Youth Education is a non-governmental, non-profit and non-political youth organisation, founded in Podgorica in 2009, with the aim of supporting, affirming and encouraging young people to strengthen activism, volunteerism, mobility and informal education.

As a socially responsible organisation, for years we have been implementing domestic and international projects related to strengthening the capacities of young people, their informal education, developing a culture of youth participation, providing mechanisms for fostering activism, developing youth work as a support in the process of independence, improving interdepartmental cooperation, etc.

The NGO Center for Youth Education has been implementing the European Youth Card (EYCA) in Montenegro since 2018.

The Ministry of Sports and Youth is established by the Decree on the Organization and Mode of State Administration. The Ministry performs tasks related to the field of sports and youth policy.

The institution deals with the promotion of Montenegro through sports activities, implements the Sports Development Strategy, and initiates and undertakes measures aimed at improving the situation in the field of sports.

In the field of youth policy, the Ministry performs tasks related to the creation and improvement of youth policy, adoption of strategies and action plans, as well as youth programs.

The Ministry provides strong support to the development of the European Youth Card (EYCA) in Montenegro.

Practical information

All participation related costs are covered by the organisers, as it followed:

International travel related costs are reimbursed by EYCA, through the PA on Youth Mobility, upon receiving the travel documents. Reimbursement will be done in maximum three weeks after attending the seminar.

Accommodation and meals are covered by the local organisers for a maximum of 2 nights.

Transport

The participants are responsible for arranging their own travel, possibly in a most economical way. More information about the local transport will be offered at a later state.

EYCA will reimburse international travel costs upon receiving the justificative documents, **up to 400 euros/person** and the tickets need to be booked at least 15 days in advance before travelling.

- Request for reimbursement (to be sent to all attendees)
- E-ticket/ invoice / train/bus tickets clearly showing the paid amount
- Travelling by car: 0.40 Euros/km, upon receiving the gas receipt

The participants' travel to and from the event as well as their stay during the study visit will be covered by the Council of Europe insurance. The organisers do not offer a pre-booked ticket.

Visa

Those participants who need a visa to travel to Montenegro are requested to fill in Appendix III and send a scanned copy of their passport. Please note that the organisers will assist with obtaining a visa for the selected participants.

Confirmation

Please express your interest in participating in this event **by the latest 15th April** by filling in the [online application form](#).

If you require a visa, please fill in the form '*Visa application information*' at the end of this document and attach a passport copy, sending it to youthmobility@coe.int within the same deadline.

Contact

Regarding participation and visa issues: youthmobility@coe.int

Regarding practical arrangements: Corina Pirvulescu, EYCA: corina.pirvulescu@eyca.org

DRAFT PROGRAMME

| DAY 0 Monday 29 th May | |
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| Until 20.00 | Arrival of participants and welcome dinner |
| DAY 1 Tuesday 30 th May | |
| 09.15 - 10.00 | Welcome <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jugoslav Radovic - Vice President of the European Youth Card Association and Executive Director of NGO Center for Youth education Dragoslav Šćekić - Vice President of the Government of Montenegro for Demography and Youth and Minister of Sports and Youth Dominique Waag - Ambassador of OSCE Mission in Montenegro Council of Europe EYCA Ambassador from Montenegro Manel Sanchez - EYCA Director |
| 10.00 - 10.30 | Aim and objectives of this seminar <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mapping the audience Expectations Brief presentation of EYC scheme and PA on Youth Mobility |
| 10.30 - 11.00 | Setting the stage Keynote speaker on aligning objectives and stakeholders to build youth ecosystems |
| 11.00 - 11.30 | Coffee break |
| 11.30 - 13.00 | Good practices from EYCA members (TBC) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agenzija Zghazagh - Malta Young Scot - Scotland, UK Centre for Youth Education - Montenegro Questions and Answers session |
| 13.00 - 14.30 | Lunch |
| 14.30 - 16.00 | Panel discussion on youth ecosystems, featuring stakeholders' representatives, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> RYCO Secretariat of the Parliament of Montenegro -deliberative democracy team Municipality of Podgorica Council of Europe Local youth NGO / youth worker EYCA <i>How can we make the best out of EYC infrastructure?</i> |

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| 16.00 - 16.30 | Coffee break |
| 16.30 - 19.00 | Visiting NEST Podgorica (TBC) Guided tour of the city |
| 19.30 - 22.00 | Dinner in the city in a traditional restaurant |
| DAY 2 Wednesday 31st May | |
| 09.30 - 10.00 | Welcome back and recap of the previous day |
| 10.00 - 11.00 | <i>Western Balkans youth ecosystem creation: challenges and opportunities to learn lessons. Presentations of:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Youth Cooperation Office • Regional Cooperation Council • OSCE Mission • EYCA Office |
| 11.00 - 11.30 | Coffee break |
| 11.30 - 13.00 | Untapping the potential of EYC in connecting stakeholders and building youth infrastructure. Working groups on different topics related to youth ecosystems. |
| 13.00 - 13.30 | Closing of event |
| 13.30 - 14.30 | Lunch break and departures |

DEADLINE – 15TH APRIL 2024

ALL APPLICATIONS SHOULD BE SENT TO
youthmobility@coe.int