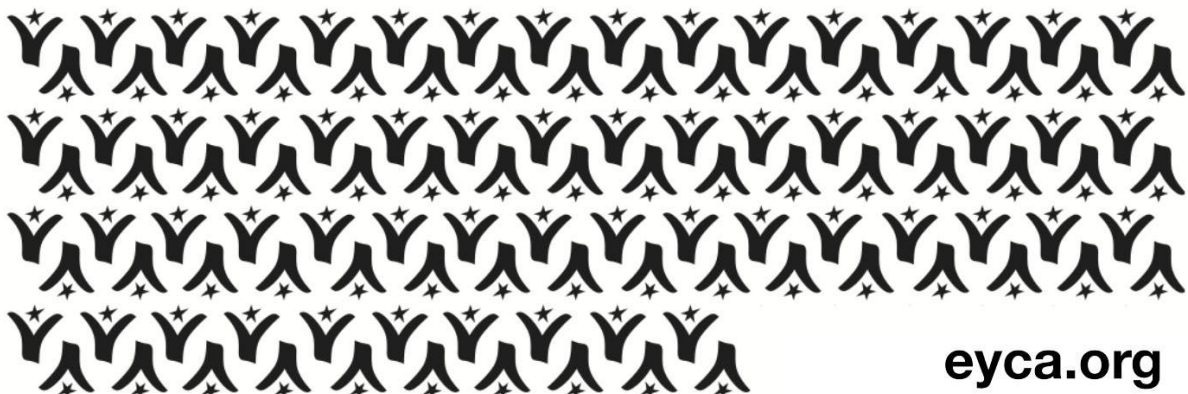


# Youth Work and sustainable communities: the role of the European Youth Card in delivering youth work services

5 – 7 May 2019  
Helsinki, Finland

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

REPORT



## Introduction

The Seminar "Youth Work and sustainable communities: the role of European Youth Card in delivering youth card services"<sup>1</sup> took place in Helsinki, Finland, on 5-7 May 2019. It was organised as part of the programme of the *Partial Agreement on Youth Mobility through the Youth Card* of the Council of Europe as a joint effort between three partner organisations:

- The Partial Agreement on Youth Mobility through the Youth Card<sup>2</sup>,
- The European Youth Card Association (EYCA),
- Allianssi, the national youth council of Finland and a service and advocacy organisation in the field of youth work.

### About the organisers:

The Partial Agreement on Youth Mobility through the Youth Card is a programme of the Council of Europe since 1991, it aims at developing the youth card scheme, particularly at the European level, **in the best interests of young people** to facilitate their mobility as well as access to the various goods and services necessary **for young people's personal and cultural development**.

The European Youth Card Association (EYCA) groups around 37 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 to reach this objective consists in delivering **quality** youth card services and in contributing to **better policy on youth mobility and active citizenship**. Today, over six million youth card-holders benefit from youth card opportunities.

Allianssi is the Finnish national youth council and advocacy organisation in the field of youth work. It is a politically and religiously independent trustee comprising 130 Finnish youth work and educational organisations as its members. Its purpose is to promote the development of young people into responsible members of the society and to encourage youth participation in decision-making as well as international activities.

### Context and objectives

As one of the leading European countries in promoting qualitative youth work services, Finland represented the perfect location to host one of the Partial Agreement's seminars, especially while the country held the Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers for the period of November 2018 to May 2019. The seminar was a follow-up to the main activity of the Finnish Chairmanship in the field of youth, namely the seminar "Educational Pathways for Youth Workers" that also took place in Helsinki on 20-22 February 2019.

The main objectives of the event were:

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<sup>1</sup> The programme of the Seminar appears in Appendix I.

<sup>2</sup> Finland is part of the Partial Agreement

- To explore the understanding of 'youth work services' and the variety of models across CoE countries;
- To promote the importance of youth work in building sustainable communities, based on access to rights and social inclusion of vulnerable young people;
- To consider the role of the European Youth Card in implementing specific Council of Europe legislation, in particular the Recommendation on youth work CM/Rec (2017)4.

### **Profile of the participants**

This one-day-and-a-half seminar brought together:

- Governmental representatives of the Council of Europe/Partial Agreement member states;
- Researchers;
- EYCA member organisations, partners and networks;
- International organisations;
- Youth and civil society organisations.

### **Day 1**

The event was open by Mrs Henni Axelin Director for Youth, Division of Youth Work and Youth Policy on behalf of the Ministry of Education and Culture in Finland. The main focus was on Finnish Youth Work as well as inclusiveness to build trust among generations in the Finish society and the full commitment and support given by the Ministry towards young people and youth organisations.

Ms Natalja Turenne spoke on behalf of the Council of Europe and highlighted the importance of the Partial Agreement on Youth Mobility through the European Youth Card, as a powerful tool in reaching out to young people towards sustainable communities, as well as the work done by the Council of Europe Youth Department in the field of youth work.

Mr Manel Sánchez, EYCA Director, concluded the opening session. He mentioned the importance of the European Youth Card and youth mobility as well as the importance of the Partial Agreement Seminar for EYCA and their expectations as the outcome and further steps.

As a conclusion, he presented the European Youth Card in terms of history, progress and its focus on youth mobility, social inclusion, access to human and civil rights. He also mentioned current initiatives taken by EYCA towards their member organisations and the European Youth.

The discussion was opened by **Prof. Howard Williamson**, who offered an overview of the development of youth work on the transforming communities over the past 30 years. He stressed the specific contribution of non-formal and informal learning on young people,

fostering active citizenship and participation of young people in diverse and tolerant societies, preventing marginalisation and radicalisation.

The second panellist **Mr Jarkko Lehikoinen from Allianssi** mainly focused on the youth work model in Finland and its effectiveness, financial support and organisational aspects leading to the success of youth work and youth organisations in the Finnish society.

The final panellist **Mr Juha Kiviniemi representing Verke** presented the concept of digital youth work and some thriving examples on how to reach out and engage youth through digital tools linked with the traditional methods of youth work.

The keynote speech referred to new approaches in youth work as an innovative tool and key contributor to social and economic inclusion of young people towards sustainable communities presented by **Mr Arnaud Raskin from SteetwiZe**. He is a social entrepreneur, co-founder of Mobile School, StreetwiZe and StreetSmart with a hybrid approach juxtaposing social impact and business models. His work model has proved a successful implementation of youth work and non-formal methods in reaching out to street kids and empowering them through youth work methodologies in order to further engage them in social and economic initiatives, the key approach by Mr Raskin. The full session was devoted to the business model and social impact analysis, both digital tools and traditional methods developed in theory and practice further implemented around the world.

The afternoon session started with a presentation by **Mr Tomi Kiilakoski, Youth Work Coordinator at the Finnish Youth Research Society**, presenting the new research and theory that focuses on the level of recognition of youth work in European societies and defined the categories based on the legislative, social and economic/material recognition. The presentation concluded with a set of recommendations on how to further support the recognition process in the respective countries of the participants and other EU countries in terms of youth work development.

The following presentations connected these topics with the services provided by the European Youth Card:

- **Ms Soula Pappouti - Youth Board of Cyprus** shared various approaches undertaken by Cypriote authorities in the field of social inclusion of young people from a migratory background, particularly with a view to fewer opportunities open to members of these communities. She mentioned initiatives taken in rural areas with the aim of building tolerant and multicultural communities and ways of successful empowerment of youth for further participation in social and economic life.
- **Ms Deborah Bonnici - Aġenzija Żgħażaġh, Malta** presented ways to engage young people in civic participation through youth work. She related some of the successful examples from Malta, as well as the creation and implementation of programmes

aiming at involving the Maltese youth towards active citizenship and social and economic participation.

The day finished with a **field visit at Harju Youth House** organised in order to familiarise the participants with a successful/popular youth centre in Finland and its approach and communication with young people in Helsinki. The coordinator presented the transformation of public buildings into new youth houses with detailed information on their programmes and opportunities provided for young people. The field visit was followed by a Q&A session that allowed participants to have a better perspective regarding this effective model and explore different ways to implement similar initiatives in their national/local realities.

## Day 2

The second day started with a summary of the previous day lead by the moderator and followed by an interactive Q&A session in which participants had the opportunity to share their thoughts and opinions. The presentations of the day high-lighted the youth card aspect in relation to the main subject of the seminar:

- **Mr Josep Moliner - Agència Catalana de la Joventut** presented inspiring examples of youth work at the service of more tolerant and multicultural communities. His presentation provided explanations of the Agency's strategy for the implementation of the European Youth Card as a strong tool in engaging young people on mobility, social inclusion and tolerance.
- **Ms Lilya Elenkova - National Youth Card Association Bulgaria** presented the effective implementation of the European Youth Card in mobility and promoting civic participation among Bulgarian youth.
- **Ms Danielle Logan - Young Scot** presented the programmes and actions on media literacy and youth work methodologies on raising awareness among Scottish youngsters in becoming active citizens and leaders within their communities.

During the final session, the participants were split into four working groups focusing on further recommendations for EYCA member organisations and policy-makers in the field of youth with the following guiding question: *"How the European Youth Card could further support the development of Quality Youth Work? (National, European and Policy Level)"*

The recommendations given by the working groups concerned the promotion and use of the Council of Europe Youth Work Portfolio, promotion and support of quality youth work using the opportunities provided by the European Youth Card, specific digital developments in the app including the development of a notification system; creation of an advisory board within EYCA working with national ambassadors for propagating good practices to all EYCA

members; etc. EYCA’s Director gave a short feed-back to certain concrete recommendations which the EYCA Governing Board could consider in the near future.

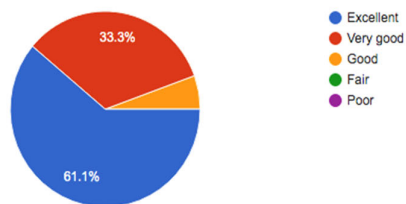
The evaluation by the participants is presented here below.

**Evaluation**

A survey was circulated among participants of the event. The results are:

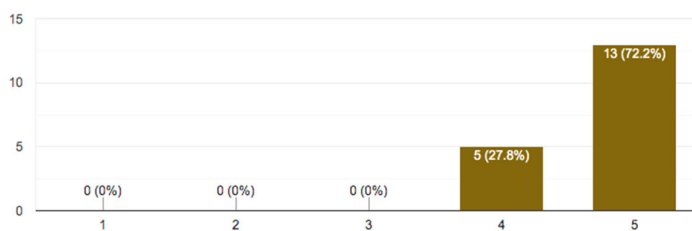
How would you rate the general organisation (logistics and content) of the PA Seminar?

18 responses



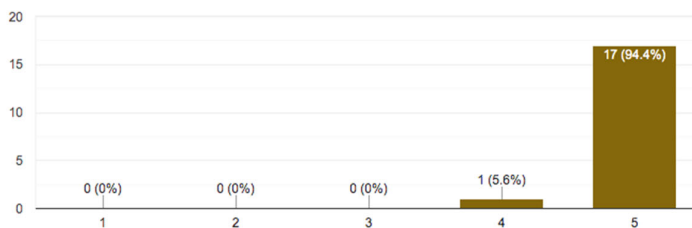
How would you rate the information offered on Youth work in the digital era?

18 responses



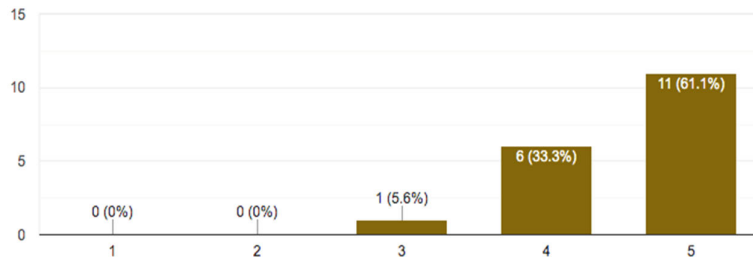
How would you appreciate the intervention of keynote speaker Arnaud Raskin from Streetwize?

18 responses



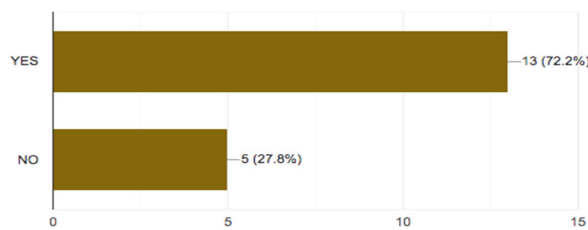
### How do you rate the information about European Youth Card and different models of implementation?

18 responses



### Was it your first participation in a PA seminar organised by EYCA and Council of Europe?

18 responses



## APPENDIX I

# SEMINAR PROGRAMME

DAY 1   SUNDAY, 5 <sup>th</sup> MAY 2019	
	Arrival of participants
20.30	Welcome dinner at the hotel
DAY 2   MONDAY, 6 <sup>th</sup> MAY 2019	
09.15 – 09.30	<b>Welcome</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Government of Finland</li> <li>• Council of Europe representative.</li> <li>• EYCA Director.</li> </ul>
09.30 – 10.00	<b>Aim and objectives</b> of the Seminar -mapping the audience -expectations  <b>Introduction</b> of the facilitator, presentation and expectations of participants  EYCA presentation
10.00 – 11.15	<b>State of affairs of Youth Work in Europe</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prof. Howard Williamson – Youth Work transforming communities over the past 30 years.</li> <li>• Jarkko Lehtikoinen - Finnish model of Youth work - How and why it actually works</li> <li>• Tomi Kiilakoski - Trends in the recognition of youth work – a profession to aspire to?</li> </ul>
11.15 - 11.30	Coffee break
11.30 – 13.00	<b>New and old challenges in youth work</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arnaud Raskin – SteetWiZe 0032496424604</li> </ul>
13.00 – 14.30	Lunch break (at the hotel)
14.30 – 16.00	<b>Presentations: European Youth Card and the Youth Work Recommendations</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Juha Kiviniemi – Verke, Youth work in the digital era: what is next?</li> <li>• Youth work and civic youth participation: Agenzija Żgħażaġh – Malta</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Youth work and social inclusion, tolerance and multicultural communities          - Agencia Catalana de la Joventut</li> </ul>
16.00 – 16.30	Coffee break
16.30 – 18.30	<i>Field visit to a youth work centre / Attending a youth work activity</i>
19:00	Dinner
<b>DAY 3   TUESDAY, 7<sup>th</sup> MAY 2019</b>	
9.30 – 11.15	<p><b>Presentations: European Youth Card and the Youth Work Recommendations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Youth work and promoting social inclusion, tolerance and multicultural communities - Youth Board of Cyprus</li> <li>Youth work and promoting civic participation – National Youth Card Association Bulgaria</li> <li>Youth work and media literacy - Young Scot – Scotland, UK</li> </ul>
11.15 - 11.45	Coffee break
11.45 - 13.00	<p><b>Conclusions</b></p> <p>Wrapping up: summary of the groups discussions</p> <p>Possible recommendations to the EYCA organisations and policy-makers</p> <p>Next steps and closing of the Seminar</p>
13.00	Lunch (at the hotel)