

Call for applications

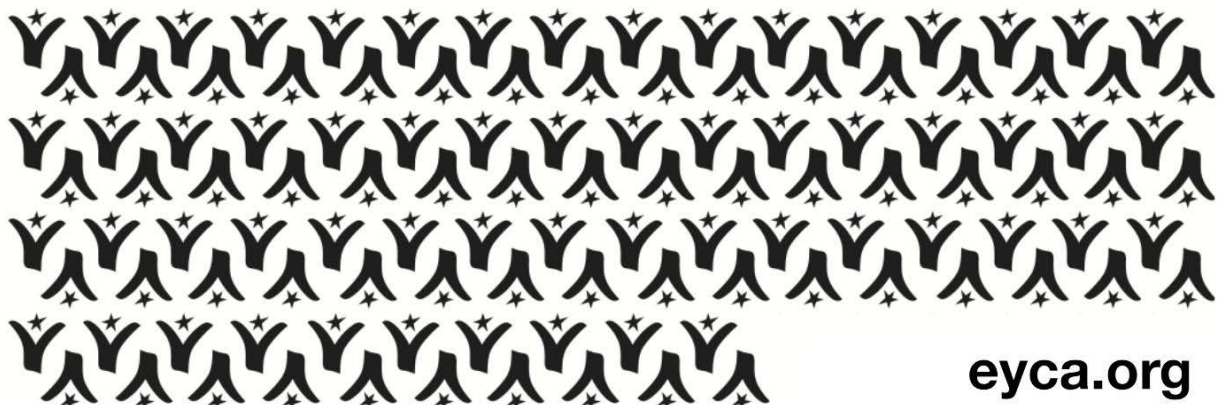
“BRAIN DRAIN or BRAIN GAIN?”

Seminar on the role of the European Youth Card in providing opportunities for young people at home and abroad

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

In the framework of the Croatian Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers
of the Council of Europe (18 May - 21 November 2018)

28 – 30 October 2018
Zagreb, Croatia



eyca.org

Introduction

The Seminar «Brain drain or brain gain?» will take place in Zagreb, Croatia, on 28-30 October 2018 as part of the programme of the Croatian Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe (18 May - 21 November 2018).

Three partners joined forces for its implementation: the Partial Agreement on Youth Mobility through the Youth Card of the Council of Europe (Croatia is part of the Partial Agreement), the European Youth Card Association (EYCA) and its Croatian member, as well as the Ministry for Demography, Family, Youth and Social Policy of the Republic of Croatia.

About the organisers

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 European Youth Card Association (EYCA) groups around 40 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 a **better policy on youth mobility and active citizenship**. Today, over eight million youth card holders benefit from youth card opportunities.

The EYCA's Croatian member involved in the preparations of the seminar is the Croatian Youth Hostel Association (CYHA), a non-profit organisation supporting mobility of young people. It offers discount cards, hostel services and opportunities for everyone between 14 and 29 to become a volunteer in one of CYHA's many projects.

The Ministry of Demographics, Family, Youth and Social Policy of the Republic of Croatia performs since 2016 administrative and professional tasks related to the social welfare institutions, the care and protection of people and families, youth, persons with disabilities, victims of trafficking, refugees, asylum seekers and professional activities related to foster care and adoption. It is one of the national partners in the implementation of the Croatian Chairmanship programme.

About the Croatian Chairmanship

Croatia became a full member of the Council of Europe on 6 November 1996. Since its creation in 1949, the Council of Europe, an international organisation of 47 member states, is the continent's leading institution for human rights, democracy and the rule of law. For the first time since it became a member of the Council of Europe, Croatia assumes the Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers from May to November 2018.

Croatia has established the following topics as priorities of its Chairmanship: the fight against corruption; the efficient protection of rights of national minorities and vulnerable groups; decentralisation in the context of strengthening of local government and self-government; the protection of cultural heritage and cultural routes.

About the theme of the Seminar

The subject of “brain drain - brain gain” has been selected by the Croatian Chairmanship as an issue of much significance not only to Croatia or the Balkans region, but to a significant number of member states of the Council of Europe.

This is a complex, even sometimes controversial, phenomenon, which might raise several questions: should “brain drain - brain gain” be considered as mobility or as migration? Is learning mobility a first step to migration? Why does the « brain drain - brain gain » phenomenon occur? Is it a matter of fate, choice or a matter of public policies? Are the reasons only economic ones (economic perspective, recognition, higher earnings) or does the phenomenon involve a wider context¹?

In any case, mobility is a world trend - both the response to and the result of a globalising world² - and mobility of young people is also an important part of youth policy of member states of the Council of Europe. This is a long-term tendency with multiple consequences (both potentially positive and negative), which need to be further explored.

On the one hand, a “brain drain can occur if emigration of educated persons for permanent or long stays abroad reaches significant levels and is not offset by the technology transfer, investments or trade” (Lowell and Findley 2002). This trend might be considered as a problem, because the most qualified and competent individuals leave their country and do not contribute to its economic prosperity. In addition, a massive drain of young working-age population is accompanied by concerns of a future demographic collapse.

On the other hand, the reverse trend is called a “brain gain”: an influx of qualified people through immigration (to the host country) or through reverse migration (return to the country of origin). Thus, whether mobility might be beneficial or harmful depends on several elements and on the various perspectives of the different stakeholders (such as the country of origin, the host country, the potential employers, the young people themselves, etc.).

This seminar will offer the space to explore these questions, as well as the possible contribution of the European Youth Card to economic empowerment for young people (notably through social entrepreneurship) and to wider opportunities for their personal development, social inclusion and active citizenship. The European Youth Card could also be used as a tool for keeping up links between the home country and its young people abroad, as well as making them feel welcome in a host country.

In so doing, the seminar should also try and highlight the positive impact of mobility for all stakeholders (e.g. broadening of the horizon, adaptability to new contexts, new social and/or professional skills and knowledge, improved linguistic skills, better understanding of one’s own identity, personal growth in gaining autonomy, responsibility, maturity, etc.).

¹ Other reasons for the “brain drain – brain gain”, other reasons might include: insecurity versus peace and stability; the state of healthcare; research and education systems; poverty; inequality and ineffective governance, etc. In this respect, the priorities of the Croatian Chairmanship (notably those to continue the fight against corruption and to advance better local and regional self-governance) are part of the solutions to better living standards that might be examined during the seminar itself.

² Elisabeth Epping M Sc, Dr. Ann Morissens, prof. Dr. Hans Vossensteyn “Post-graduation strategies for students from developing countries: exploring four developed countries in terms of brain drain/brain gain and brain circulation”, 2011

Aim of the Seminar

The Seminar aims at exploring the “brain-drain – brain gain” phenomenon and the role which the European Youth Card could play in this respect, notably by providing opportunities for young people at home and abroad.

Objectives of the Seminar

- to explore the “brain drain”, the “brain gain” and other related emerging phenomena (e.g. the “brain circulation”), their reasons, consequences, current forms and aspects;
- to explore the role of the European Youth Card in providing opportunities for young people at home and abroad by:
 - supporting their economic autonomy and active participation, notably through social entrepreneurship;
 - keeping up links with their country of origin;
 - supporting their social inclusion in the host countries;
- to explore the possible role of the European Youth Card in favouring a “win-win” situation for all stakeholders (country of origin, host country, potential employers, young people themselves).

The Seminar is expected to come up with a number of practical recommendations for the EYCA youth card organisations, and possibly for policy-makers (in order to help them to define the right policy response and use the opportunities offered by the European Youth Card).

Profile of the participants

This one-day-and-a-half seminar is open to up to 50 participants with expertise in youth affairs/youth mobility, social issues, migration, labour/employment and economic development issues, who will include:

- Governmental representatives of the Council of Europe member states³;
- Researchers;
- EYCA member organisations, partners and networks;
- International organisations;
- Youth organisations and civil society organisations.

³ Priority will be given to governmental representatives of the Partial Agreement: Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, Finland, Hungary, Ireland, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Montenegro, The Netherlands, Portugal, San Marino, Serbia, Slovenia, Slovakia and Switzerland.

Technical information

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

The draft programme appears in Appendix I. Its final version will be forwarded to the selected participants with an Info Pack before the start of the seminar.

Participants will be accommodated at the **International Hotel**, Miramarska Cesta 24, 10000, Zagreb, Croatia <https://www.hotel-international.hr/homepage>. The International Hotel will also serve as the venue of the seminar.

The accommodation, meals and international travel of the selected participants will be covered by the organisers.

The participants will be requested to book their travel **themselves** in the most cost-effective way. The travel costs will be reimbursed by EYCA on the presentation of the travel proof and the reimbursement claim (to be found in the Info Pack).

Participants are expected to arrive in Zagreb on 28 October and to depart on 30 October 2018.

Visas: Nationals who do not belong to the Schengen area **need a visa to enter Croatia**.

All participants are kindly requested to check whether they need a visa before they fill in the application form.

If you need a visa, please fill in the table in Appendix III, join the copy of your passport and send it together with your application form.

Application/expression of interest procedure

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

The applications should be sent to the following e-mail: youthmobility@coe.int by **Sunday 9 September midnight (ECT)**.

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.

Participants needing a visa will be sent a special invitation for the purpose of acquiring a Schengen visa.

APPENDIX I

DRAFT SEMINAR PROGRAMME

DAY 1 SUNDAY, 28 October 2018	
	Arrival of participants
20.30	Welcome dinner at the hotel
DAY 2 MONDAY, 29 OCTOBER 2018	
09.00 – 09.30	Welcome <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government of Croatia • Council of Europe representative • EYCA Director
09.30 – 10.00	Aim and objectives of the Seminar Introduction of the facilitator, presentation and expectations of participants
10.00 – 11.15	Exploring the “brain drain” (reasons, consequences, current forms and aspects) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Emil Krstanovski - International Labour Organisation • Researcher on the “brain circulation” phenomenon (tbc)
11.15 - 11.45	Coffee break
11.45 – 13.00	Changing the narrative: from “brain drain” to ”brain gain” in practice <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of good practices by several actors involved in “brain circulation” projects (tbc)
13.00 – 14.30	Lunch break (at the hotel)
14.30 – 16.00	Social entrepreneurship: a response to “brain drain”? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social entrepreneurship as a way of supporting the economic autonomy and active participation of young people: Mr. Jacques Spelkens – CSR Europe • European Youth Card best practice in supporting social entrepreneurship: the example of Agencia Catalana de la Juventut (Spain) • Testimonial from a young social entrepreneur from Croatia
16.00 – 16.30	Coffee break
16.30 – 18.30	Field visit to a cluster of social businesses in Zagreb (tbc)
18.30 – 20.30	Free time / Optional sightseeing tour of Zagreb
20.30	Dinner in the city

DAY 3 TUESDAY, 30 OCTOBER 2018	
9.30 – 11.00	<p>Exploring the role of the European Youth Card in providing opportunities for young people</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to keep up links with the country of origin? How to support social inclusion in the host countries? Good practice examples from EYCA organisations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Young Scot - Scotland, United Kingdom (tbc) ○ CJP - The Netherlands (tbc) ○ YLLL Foundation – Greece (tbc) • How to favour a “win-win” situation for all stakeholders? (country of origin, host country, potential employers, young people themselves): groups discussions
11.00 - 11.30	Coffee break
11.30 - 13.00	<p>Conclusions</p> <p>Wrapping up: summary of the groups discussions</p> <p>Possible recommendations to the EYCA youth card organisations and policy-makers</p> <p>Next steps and closing of the Seminar</p>
13.00	Lunch

APPENDIX 2

Application form/Expression of interest Brain drain/Brain gain: the role of the European Youth Card in providing opportunities for young people at home and abroad European Seminar (28-30 October 2018, Zagreb, Croatia)

in the framework of the Croatian Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe

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 3

Do you need a visa?

- No
 Yes

If yes, 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 9 SEPTEMBER 2018 MIDNIGHT ECT

ALL APPLICATIONS SHOULD BE SENT TO
youthmobility@coe.int