



**Partial Agreement on
Youth Mobility through the Youth Card
Final report 2017**



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INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to describe the activities and impact of the work undertaken by EYCA in 2017 as a result of the support the Association received through the Partial Agreement on Youth Mobility through the Youth Card in the framework of the Council of Europe.

The Partial Agreement on Youth Mobility through the Youth Card has become one of core priorities of the European Youth Card Association, through 25 years of its operations. EYCA has invested significant efforts to revive and strengthen its relationship with the Council of Europe as part of implementing its vision to improve youth mobility and active citizenship for all young people in Europe.

The process of revising the Partial Agreement was launched in October 2012, leading to better-tailored activities, which are beneficial for both PA member states and EYCA members. There has been an effort to design the work programmes to more accurately meet the needs of governments who already contribute, and communicate more effectively its potential value to governments who could contribute.

Youth Mobility is a current priority for all policy-makers with an interest in youth issues in Europe. Having in mind its different aspects (work mobility, learning mobility, touristic mobility, etc.), EYCA has a great potential to fulfil the gap which is recognized by all policy stakeholders when it comes to the available data and development of mobility policies.

Policy makers are interested to learn more about good practices in other countries. EYCA can provide excellent insights into these practices, having in mind 38 countries in its network, all dedicated to supporting youth mobility. EYCA is equipped to easily and promptly generate intelligence from different European countries on any aspect of mobility, which is of interest for stakeholders.

European Youth Cards are a valuable tool for mobility of young people, which is to be further, promoted and strengthened. Youth cards connect young people to all kinds of information, services and opportunities; many of them are linked to employability and entrepreneurship, which has definitely become the focus in Europe in recent years. Youth Cards provide communication channels, which can enable policy-makers (1) to provide young people with information, and (2) to consult young people directly. And many youth card organisations create innovative practices to engage young people as active citizens and in co-designing solutions.

EYCA has started the process of disseminating knowledge about practice examples during 2013 through its GPS series (see EYCA GPSs <http://issuu.com/eyca>).

Priorities

Having in mind priorities, expected results and program orientations for 2016-2017 adopted by the Joint Council on Youth, we strongly advocate that youth mobility is an important tool for achieving these objectives.

Advancing democratic citizenship through innovative forms of participation cannot be seen without youth mobility. Mobility is essential for the *autonomy of young people and their access to rights*, and even more for the *promotion of inclusive and peaceful societies* in the context of strengthening intercultural dialogue among young people, and even more with incoming huge migrant community.

Therefore, the proposed specific aims for the Partial Agreement work programme 2016-2017 were:

- To generate and mobilize knowledge about youth mobility in Europe;
- To support governments to make better policy responses to youth mobility issues;
- To engage a wide range of stakeholders to devise youth mobility-related policy including European institutions, governments, business, experts and young people;
- To stimulate and present youth card practice that contributes to better youth mobility solutions leading to integration and inclusion, especially in the light of refugee crisis in Europe.

I. HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY: YOUTH POLICY AND YOUTH WORK PROMOTING THE CORE VALUES OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

1. Commissioning design and content input for EYCA communications tools

1.1 Communication activities have been implemented as planned.

- The EYCA Facebook page is growing, with 1,815 likes and an average organic reach of 20,000 people per month.

1.2 Website

- The website design is ready and we are now working on the development part. We aim to have the front end and the content management system ready in February 2018.
- A new discount database is also being prepared. In addition to a user-friendly system, we are also including the option to add pictures to each discount. Another item on our list is to simplify the current discount categories, which are too detailed and make navigation cumbersome for the user. This will not affect the categories used by members so if a member prefers to use the old categories, they will be able to do so. With the new discount database connected to the EYCA app, the French app and possibly the Slovenian app, it is all the more important to encourage members to manage their services in the database closely.

1.3 EYCA Update. The EYCA internal newsletter was sent out at the beginning of each month to all EYCA members with information about PA activities.

1.4 EYCAatcher. The public EYCA newsletter was sent out quarterly. The topic of the latest edition was European Youth Cards Supporting Volunteering and the main article focused on 18 years of the partnership between EYCA and the European Commission for the European Voluntary Service. The 18th anniversary info was picked up and reported by the Commission on the European Youth Facebook page.

1.5 Quarterly Update. EYCA's Quarterly Update was conducted with all member organisations as well as all 17-card organisations in the autonomous Spanish regions. The Quarterly Update was a key tool for analysing members' performance and needs. The questions were re-phrased every quarter to match the current developments in the Association and a comprehensive narrative report was produced for both the EYCA Board and the members themselves. The findings and trends were presented and discussed at the EYCA Annual Conference and General Assembly in Belgrade.

2. Travel, board and lodging associated with:

Quality improvement support to existing members

In 2017, EYCA has offered support services to member organisation in order to improve youth card services and make mobility opportunities more accessible to young people. EYCA has offered specific services in the following countries: Spain, Portugal, Andorra, France, Bulgaria, Russian Federation, Czech Republic, Azerbaijan, Ukraine, Romania, Hungary, Luxembourg, Belgium, The Netherlands, Scotland, Finland, Sweden, Norway, Malta, Italy, Greece, Albania, Croatia, Serbia, Cyprus, Slovenia.

Among these, we will detail on the following:

Visit to Andorra to support negotiations with the main Sponsor:

- A new contract for 10 years was secured with the Bank Credit Andorra, offering cardholders various benefits in financial education and economic autonomy;
- Positively impacted the relationship with the public institutions and contributed to better youth policies;
- Supported Carnet Jove Andorra to re-brand the card services and communicate better with young people.

Visit to Albania to support negotiations between European Youth Card organisation and the Government representatives

- A better visibility was ensured for the youth card and services and strategic discussions with the Ministry of Youth started, in the direction of using the youth card as a tool to implement public policies;
- The meeting was fruitful as Albania is now considering joining the Partial Agreement on Youth Mobility and attended the promotional seminar in Varna (December 2017).

Visit to Romania to support the re-start of the European Youth Card

- EYCA supported the new team to develop the youth card in Romania in the following areas: strategic approach to the Romanian Ministry of Youth & Sports, re-branding of the youth card, identifying youth organisations to partner up with and improve card services;
- Youth card organization in Romania is currently working to develop a new website and brand of the card, as well as building new partnerships and start discussions with the public authorities.
- To be

Visit to Malta to support the youth work through the European Youth Card

- The purpose of the visit was to support the team which runs the youth card in Malta to identify possible links between the potential of the youth card and the youth work services they already provide;
- Strategic meetings were conducted with Business Association, possible partners, and the Minister of Youth in order to further support the European Youth Card.

Identifying and supporting the new member organisations of EYCA

In 2017, the EYCA GA confirmed two new member organisations, covering strategic territories: Germany and England. EYCA office and board members travelled to visit both organisations and offer them technical and institutional support in designing the card services, to negotiate different partnerships and to launch the card in Germany.

In addition, EYCA worked to develop new card services in other countries such as Montenegro, Georgia and Armenia. The prospective member organisation from Montenegro did an exchange visit in Slovenia to learn more about the operational aspects of the youth card. The EYCA Director travelled to Georgia and Armenia to meet the Government representatives and discuss the possibilities of supporting the

youth card project in their respective. Discussions are currently on going and both countries are expected to join in the near future.

Legal support dimension of quality improvement develop

Domain registration and protection

- To ensure the reciprocity of European Youth Card discounts and benefits in all European countries, the registration and protection of online domains is crucial. To make sure youth information is easily accessible to young people, EYCA has registered europeanyouthcard.xy and eyca.xy domains, so that they can be used by member organisations.

Effective license and sub-license agreements

- According to the EYCA Statutes, there can only be one license holder for the European Youth Card per territory, i.e. one organisation developing the card for the given country/territory. However, to expand the distribution network and to make the card available to all young people, there are also sub-license agreements in some cases. EYCA provides the legal services connected to both license and sub-license agreements.

II. LIVING TOGETHER IN DIVERSE SOCIETIES: YOUTH POLICY AND YOUTH WORK PROMOTING INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE

1. Commissioning technology infrastructure:

- **To support good practice database development**
- **To support EYCA's members' group structure**
- The existing **EYCA intranet** is being extended into a comprehensive EYCA Customer Relationship Management system (CRM), gathering information about all EYCA members and partners into one online database, together with a log of the Office and Board communication with EYCA Member Organisations (MOs) and partners. This system is necessary to:
 - Inform the decisions of the EYCA Board
 - Structure the information and knowledge collected from members by the Office into an easily accessible form for all

- Create an EYCA knowledge database for sharing successful practice, useful documents and important information between member organisations
- Enable easier production of summary statistics and analysis
- Support Maximising Impact work to assess the situation/capacity of EYCA members and to inform the development of action plans
- Record the communication between Office/Board and members
- Support the work of the Group Board members
- Ensure knowledge transfer and continuity (changing members, staff, Board members, etc.)

EYCA App

- The EYCA app project has been launched in 2017 and the free EYCA app was released in: Belgium, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Italy, Finland, and Slovakia.
- EYCA is working on an updated API to make it easier for members to get EYCA numbers from the CCDB automatically.
- Several Members are supported by EYCA to be part of the pilot group that will develop the App. The Office is providing support and in some countries the personalized app has already been released.

2. EYCA's members' group structure, including specific Conference workshops

EYCA regional meetings were organized as following:

- Group 1 – Lisbon, Portugal, May 8 - 10.
- Group 2 – Prague, Czech Republic, 26-28 April.
- Group 3 – Brussels, Belgium, May 23.
- Group 4 – Edinburgh, UK, May 3-5.
- Group 5 – Samobor, Croatia. May 11-13.

Partial Agreement evolution and new possibilities of implementation were discussed in the meetings. Also the PA programme 2018 - 2019 was discussed.

3. Commissioning the generation and dissemination of knowledge relating to volunteering and youth citizenship

Since 1999, EYCA in cooperation with the European Commission has been issuing a special EVS edition of the European Youth Card to all volunteers of the EVS Programme. A new agreement was signed in December 2014 estimating that 23,000 EVS European Youth Cards will be issued from November 2014

until December 2016. With this new agreement, additional actions were agreed to increase the visibility of the European Youth Card:

- Include EVS-European Youth Cards into EYCA Common Cardholder Database

- In 2017, EYCA ran two surveys to gather information about:
 - The challenges in communication with young people and the different strategies and methods youth workers use to deliver their services. This helped EYCA member organisations to diversify their opportunities to young people, to better communicate them and to have higher engagement from young cardholders. The survey gathered approximately 100 answers from youth workers across Europe.

 - The perceives challenges and opportunities for quality mobility in Europe – the survey reached 200 cardholders across the continent and emphasizes the barriers young people have to pursue mobility opportunities, but also the added value of having this chance and what type of skills they gain during mobility learning opportunities. The results are used in EYCA's efforts to advocate for better mobility opportunities and policies, thus being reflected also in PA programme 2018.

III. SOCIAL INCLUSION OF YOUNG PEOPLE

1. Travel, board and lodging associated with knowledge exchange meetings and events related to promoting and developing social inclusion aspects of youth card organisations

- **Engaging cardholders, decision makers and youth workers in policy shaping**

Through the project 'Youth Mobility & the European Youth Card', EYCA aimed at contributing to the European youth agenda by stimulating bottom-up debates on the added value of 'youth mobility' and to place itself as a key stakeholder in the field, especially by engaging non-organised young people (cardholders), youth workers and decision makers.

Objectives of the project:

- O1: Engage non-organised young people, youth workers and policy makers, at national and regional levels, in debates related to the added value of youth mobility and how to reflect in at policy & programme level;
- O2: Gather specific recommendations from national youth card organisations and institutions on youth mobility across Europe;
- O3: Contribute to high-level by organizing one European round-table, bringing together representatives of all stakeholders and create one joint position paper/recommendations to advance youth mobility as a priority of the next EU framework on youth.

Debates among the cardholders, EYCA representatives and policy makers at national level took place in parallel with EYCA Regional Group meetings.

- **29 – 31 January 2017: PA Seminar in Nicosia, Cyprus “Countering Violent Extremism and Youth Radicalisation: Using the European Youth Card to Promote Peaceful Communities”**

Organized by the Council of Europe Partial Agreement on Youth Mobility Through the Youth Card and the European Youth Card Association (EYCA), in the framework of the Cyprus Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe

Sunday, 29th January 2017

Arrival and official Welcome Dinner.

Monday, 30th January 2017

Opening Session

The seminar opened with representatives from the partner organisations sharing some welcome words with the participants.

Mr Victoras Kountouris from the Youth Board of Cyprus, underlined the importance of the topic of the seminar, as it is currently one of the most important challenges that Europe is facing. He also highlighted the significant role of the youth card as a tool to build peaceful societies, as it assures equal services to all young people, regardless of their social or cultural background.

Mr. Markus Wolf, chair of the European Steering Committee on Youth (CDEJ) of the Council of Europe, expressed the interest of CDEJ and Joint Council on Youth in following up the outcomes of this seminar. Mr. Wolf also shared information about other efforts of the organisation in promoting peaceful societies, such as the *No Hate Speech Campaign*, the *Roma Youth Action Plan* and the Action Plan approved by the Committee of Ministers on the Fight Against Violent Extremism and Radicalisation Leading to Terrorism and on Building Inclusive Societies.

Mr Jarkko Lehtikainen, president of the European Youth Card Association (EYCA), highlighted the strong interest in the seminar, expressed through the high number of applications received. Mr. Lehtikainen also shared that the focus of the work related with countering violent extremism should be primarily on prevention and that EYCA also has a role on this joint effort of the youth sector, as the youth card goes beyond travel and discounts and is a tool for social inclusion and participation.

After the opening remarks, the facilitator was invited to briefly recall the main objectives of the seminar and introduce the programme.

Key Note Speakers

Mr. Sebastian Abdallah

University of Applied Science of Amsterdam and University of Amsterdam

"Building relationships and promoting peaceful communities: a factor of countering violent extremism and radicalisation?"

Sebastian Abdallah teaches social work and community development at the Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences. He does research on young people's development in different spheres of life as well as on youth oriented institutions in both The Netherlands and Lebanon. Educational background and work experience in Community Development, Youth Work, Arabic Studies, and Sociology. He is currently finishing his PhD dissertation in the department of Sociology at the University of Amsterdam under the working title: Struggles for success. Youth work rituals in Amsterdam and Beirut.

The focus of Mr Abdallah's presentation was on the personal process that a young person goes through in his/her path towards inclusion and integration or radicalisation. He focused on what is needed to reach success in life and underlined the importance of positive rituals to create relations between the young person and the community. Mr Abdallah explored the power of symbols in creating these connections and the need to promote positive symbols among young people. He also talked about the different feelings and situations that can lead to radicalisation of young people.

After the presentation, the group engaged in a dialogue with the speaker that allowed: a deeper reflection, for example, on the radicalisation process of a young person and the importance of peer-to-peer approach and the creation of positive symbols to develop a sense of belonging to a community; and a better understanding of the methodology used in the research.

Mrs. Gizem Kiliç

United Network of Young Peacebuilders and Advisory Council on Youth of the Council of Europe

"Role of youth-led civil society in preventing violent extremism among young people"

Gizem Kiliç is Leading Coordinator at the United Network of Young Peacebuilders (UNOY Peacebuilders). Gizem is in charge of UNOY's advocacy work, and additionally works on the gender dimensions of youth, peace and security issues. She is a member of the Advisory Council on Youth of the Council of Europe. She has previously worked for the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict, where she was advocating for preventive rather than reactive responses to armed conflict.

Mrs. Gizem Kiliç brought a young peacebuilders' perspective on the topic, sharing concrete examples on how youth organisations and young people are working on countering violent extremism. In addition, she also shared about existing policy frameworks on the issue, such as the action plans of the Council of Europe and the UN Security Council Resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security. Mrs Kiliç finalised her presentation with a strong message to focus on prevention and to see young people beyond the victim-perpetrator dichotomy and to engage them as peacebuilders.

There was a moment of interaction with the group of participants and the possibility to further discuss issues such as the role of media, on how to reach the young extremists and the importance of political participation of young people.

Good Practice on Integration Vs. Alienation

Mrs. Gazela Pudar Drasko

EYCA – sharing good practices of member organisations

The presentation of Mrs. Drasko included a brief introduction on EYCA: its aims and membership and the collaboration with the *Partial Agreement on Youth Mobility Through the Youth Card of the Council of Europe*. She shared different examples from member organisations that are promoting the youth card as a tool to foster peaceful communities that included good practices from Scotland and Northern Ireland. In addition, Mr. Victoras Kountouris, also had the possibility to share on behalf of the Youth Board of Cyprus, the work that is being developed in the country.

After the presentation, the group engaged in a dialogue with Mrs. Drasko. There was a significant interest among participants to get to know more about EYCA, the youth card and the services related.

Mr. Jacques Spelkens

Engie - CSR Europe - sharing a good practice from business sector

Mr. Jacques Spelkens, speaking on behalf of Engie, member of CSR Europe, talked about his experience in promoting social inclusion and integration of young refugees in Belgium. He explained how their employees are engaged in corporate volunteer projects promoted by the company, that include language teaching, learning through sports and other capacity building and integration programmes.

There was a moment for interaction with the group, which expressed its curiosity and interest to understand how to connect with the initiatives of the business sector and join efforts in the fight against violent extremism and radicalisation.

Mr. Josep Moliné

Agència Catalana de la Joventut – sharing a good practice on the social role of the youth card

Mr. Josep Moliné from the Catalan Agency on Youth, shared their approach of seeing and promoting the youth card as a social tool for inclusion and integration. He highlighted the outreach capacity of the youth card in Catalunya and the upcoming initiatives that will include, for example, making the card available to young refugees.

After the presentation, there were some questions addressed to the speaker to clarify some details about the upcoming initiatives.

Integration Vs. Radicalisation: Youth Card Preventing Violent Extremism Among Young People

In this session, participants were invited to engage in one of the following working groups:

- 1. Identifying the potential contribution of youth cards in supporting youth policy on countering violent extremism and youth radicalisation* – facilitated by Mrs Gazela Pudar Drasko (EYCA)
- 2. How to build strong, diverse communities of young cardholders and link activities with countering violent extremism* – facilitated by Mrs Gizem Kiliç (UNOY)
- 3. Skills, competences & attitudes developed through youth mobility and the relation to countering violent extremism & youth radicalisation* – facilitated by Alen Maletic (Life-Long Learning Platform)

Each group discussed the main challenges and needs around their thematic focus and the way, how the European Youth Card could contribute to promote peaceful communities. One of the overall conclusions was the need to strengthen cooperation between different actors. Therefore the aim was to identify practical proposals for future consideration and work of EYCA, its member organisations and the Council of Europe but also for other stakeholders in the youth field, such as the organisations attending the seminar.

At the end of the working groups, the facilitators came together with the organising team, shared the main outcomes and worked together on a presentation for the day after. Volunteers were identified within each group to share the key messages in plenary.

Tuesday, 31st January 2017

Presentation of the Key Messages of the Working Groups and Plenary Discussion

The session started with an overall sum-up of needs and challenges discussed in the working groups, shared by the facilitator. The main issues mentioned were:

- The need for a common understanding and definition of the problem, of concepts (such as disadvantaged, vulnerability) and of priority target groups;
- The limitations faced by an existing “short-termism” approach (the turnover of decision-makers and staff in some contexts limit sustainable interventions);
- The “dehumanisation” of young people, labeling them without taking into consideration a complex and wide spectrum of backgrounds and related needs;
- The challenge of simplification, of understanding violent extremism and radicalisation as only reported in the media, without considering the importance of working also on right-wing extremism. To develop an understanding that radicalisation can happen in our closer circles and contexts as well;
- The need to foster cross-cooperation between different actors in the youth field and focus on prevention;

- The challenge of “hard-to-reach” young people and the need to see it also from the perspective of “hard-to-reach” services.

1. Identifying the potential contribution of youth cards in supporting youth policy on countering violent extremism and youth radicalisation

Key Messages presented by Mr William Carter (The Student View + Stand Now UK)

- 1.1 The Youth Card should strengthen its role as a tool to raise young people’s **awareness** of inclusive **values**, (history-based) **knowledge** and **information** on the services offered.
- 1.2 The Youth Card should invoke a **sense of belonging** to young people to their own immediate **community** but also to **Europe** as a community with all its diversities.
- 1.3 The Youth Card should be a tool for the **social recognition of young people**, an incentive for and a symbol of their contribution to their communities. The card should reward positive actions such as volunteering, thus recognizing the young person’s work and rewarding them on a symbolic level (a special volunteer’s card they can take pride in) but also through free or discounted services
- 1.4 The Youth Card should be a **tool for dialogue** among young people themselves, but also between young people and other stakeholders. Young people should be engaged through the card to take part in discussions and youth policy developments.
- 1.5 EYCA should develop a service of **Youth Card advisor**, where competent youth workers would be available to young cardholders to offer information and guidance related to their needs - as a first and trusted contact/resource person.

2. How to build strong, diverse communities of young cardholders and link activities with countering violent extremism

Key Messages presented by Nassim Djaba (MOBIN)

2.1 Partnerships

EYCA and its members have established partnerships with the private sector, NGOs, local governments and institutions like the Council of Europe and the EU. There is a need to exchange experience, coordinate efforts and to work together. We propose to establish an **EYCA Prize**. It will offer a platform to promote cultural initiatives across Europe that contribute to peaceful societies. The jury will be composed of business, NGOs and local government entities. The first edition will have 3 categories: **gender & equality**, **active citizenship** and **critical thinking**

2.2 Cultural bonding / double-date

EYCA will release a call for participants to a **cultural event** to e.g. a museum, festival, concert, etc. **Participants** will come **from diverse backgrounds** (geographical, cultural, occupational, religious) and will have never met before. They will take part in a fun cultural activity and will get to meet new people they might otherwise not have met.

2.3 European Youth Card as an identity card

The European Youth Card is a de facto **identity tool**, regardless of your citizenship status. It proves identity and creates a sense of belonging. Yet it still gives you access to services and opportunities.

3. Skills, competences & attitudes developed through youth mobility and the relation to countering violent extremism & youth radicalisation

Key Messages presented by Beata Simurdova (Ministry of Education, Research and Sport – Slovakia)

- 3.1** The Youth Card should continue to focus on developing **tailor-made services**, going **beyond discounts** in order to **boost its social role** and contribution.
- 3.2** Expand on current practices in EYCA and provide the youth card to all young refugees upon arrival in **reception centres**.
- 3.3** Continue to promote youth volunteering through the youth card and increase the card's role in recognising and rewarding **volunteer work**.
- 3.4** Encouraging EYCA members to identify partners on the local and national level to give cardholders access to **living libraries** in order to promote multiperspectivity and experiential learning as a way to gain a better understanding of their communities and the world.
- 3.5** Focus on providing cardholders access to new educational events, such as TED Talks and other **conferences and events** that can empower and inspire young people.
- 3.6** EYCA should **exchange practices** and initiatives with similar organisations in **other parts of the world**.

The floor was open for clarifications and remarks after the presentation of the key messages. In general, the feedback was very positive and participants felt identified with the proposals. There were some comments that underlined the importance of cooperation between different actors, as the proposals tackled also different fields of intervention.

There were a couple of remarks expressing concern towards the proposal of the youth card as an identity card. To move forward with this proposal, there would be the need to have a common

understanding of what we mean by “identity card” and to explore the legal implications in the different countries.

Mr Manel Sánchez, director of EYCA, took the opportunity to share what was already done related with some of the proposals and clarified the feasibility to implement the ideas proposed. In addition, he also mentioned that the upcoming general assembly of EYCA (June 2017), will be an important moment to discuss these proposals with the member organisations.

The quality of the proposals was acknowledged, especially taking into consideration the length of the seminar and of the working groups.

To close the session the facilitator invited participants to share any possible follow-up from the participants’ side that they would like to share, including upcoming events in the 2017 agenda. Below you find what has been shared:

- Call for participants from UNOY “Training for Advocates” – April 2017
<http://unoy.org/call-for-participants/>
- Child and Youth Welfare festival: 23 – 27 March 2017, Dusseldorf (Germany)

Closing Session

Mr Victoras Kountouris from the Youth Board of Cyprus, Mr. Markus Wolf from CDEJ – Council of Europe and Mr Jarkko Lehtikoinen, president of the European Youth Card Association (EYCA), took the floor to briefly share some closing remarks.

The work developed by EYCA in the preparation of the seminar, the warm hosting of the Youth Board of Cyprus and the active participation of the group were acknowledged. There was a commitment expressed by the representatives of EYCA and the Council of Europe to follow-up on the outcomes of the seminar.

The seminar was closed by Mr Manel Sanchez that expressed his satisfaction regarding the outcomes of the seminar and thanked the hosting organisation, partners and participants for their contribution to a successful seminar.

Media coverage

With eleven articles published about the seminar in Greek media, the seminar received a large press coverage.

List of participants

Name	Organisation/Institution
Jarkko Lehtikoinen	European Youth Card Association
Manel Sanchez	European Youth Card Association
Gazela Pudar	European Youth Card Association
Josep Moline	Agencia Catalana de la Joventut
Duarte Bravo	Movijovem
Beata Simurdova	Ministry of Education, Research, Sport - Slovakia
Sona Grigoryan	Ministry of Sport and Youth – Armenia
Remo Massari	Ministry of Education - San Marino
Nassim Djaba	MOBIN - Slovenia
Pedro Folgado	IPDJ - Portugal
Victoria Lovelock	CCIVS - France
Nelli Gishyan	Follow Up Group No Hate Speech Campaign
Liliya Elenkova	NYCA - Bulgaria
Nagla Abed	Anna Lindth Foundation
Peter Debeljak	Youth Office of the Republic of Slovenia
Petra Klein	Open doors youth initiative - Germany
Jakub Niewisnki	Center for Civic Education in Warsaw
Alen Maletic	Lifelong Learning Platform - Belgium
William Carter	The Student view + Stand now UK
Emiliano Aliu	Roma Versitas Albania
Maurice Devlin	Centre for Youth Research and Development - Ireland
Eka Baramidze	Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia
Francesc Poch Ros	Agencia Catalana de la Joventud
Maria Angeles Riveiro	Ministry of Education, Culture, Sport - Spain
Panos Christoforou	Cyprus Youth Diplomacy
Athanasia Konstantinou	Cyprus Youth Diplomacy
Zinonas Sokratous	Cyprus Youth Diplomacy
Elena Kalli	Eurodesk Cyprus
Florian Cescon	Council of Europe
Markus Wolf	Chairman of CDEJ
Christoph Heise	Assistant
Jorge Orlando Queiros	Member of CDEJ
Gizem Kilinc	Member of Advisory Council on Youth / UNOY Peacebuilders
Jacques Spelkens	CSR Europe
Sébastien Abdullah	University of Amsterdam
Andreia Henriques	Facilitator

2. Commissioning generation and dissemination of knowledge relating to social inclusion

EYCA was present in different in several meetings during 2017.

First European Business-Education Summit – 22 – 24 November 2017, Brussels, Belgium

The Summit was held in plenary, featuring highest-level speakers from both the public and private sector, together with youth, to present and discuss the results of the Pact.

The Summit took place as part of the wider European Vocational Skills Week, organised by the European Commission to promote vocational education and training (VET) as a first choice.

Link: <https://goo.gl/rjKc9V>

Conference ‘Youth work against Violent radicalisation’ – 28 – 30 November 2017, San Gillian, Malta

The focus was on prevention, supporting and empowering young people to deal with challenges they face and strengthening their resilience, in Europe and neighbouring regions. The goal of the project was to draw lessons, conclusions and recommendations regarding the needs and challenges of youth work at different levels.

Link: <https://goo.gl/HxSkvf>

The European University on Youth Policies - 29-31 August 2017, Budapest, Hungary

The event aimed at improving participants’ understanding of European approaches to youth policy. It familiarised them with the values, objectives, programmes and structures of the Council of Europe and its Youth Department. Participants also exchanged knowledge and views on youth policy issues relevant to debates taking place in the Council of Europe’s youth sector. The programme of the Summer University alternated inputs with on-site field visits, allowing participants to explore the practical implications of youth policies.

EYCA had the chance to present the youth card, how Governmental institutions can use it as a practical tool to implement youth policies and how the Hungarian member organisation works to develop it. An EYCA delegation attended the University and took the lead in co-organising this session.

Link: <https://goo.gl/8bbsDa>

3. Participating in meetings and events to support the development of youth information across Europe

- **March and October 2017: NHSM Follow-Up Group Meeting Strasbourg**

EYCA participated and deliver a presentation in the 9th NHSM Follow-up Group meeting. As a direct result of this meeting EYCA member in Hungary has made a strategic partnership with the Hungarian No Hate speech campaign. To promote the campaign they are going share and communicate all the events and all the initiatives of them to more than 1.5 million cardholders - from elementary schools up to universities and our discount partners.

- **May and September 2017: Steering Group of the European Platform on Learning Mobility, Bordeaux and Brussels.**

The Main outcomes of the meeting were:

- The European Quality Charter on Learning Mobility in the Youth Field was adopted by the SG and launched in 2017, together with the performance indicators;
- The Biannual EPLM Conference to be hosted by French NA on 16 – 18 May 2018
- The Concept of the conference was designed and developed during the meetings;
- Next SG meeting: March 2018.

- **ERYICA and EURODESK**

Meetings of the three networks Directors were conducted on a regular basis and the three networks started a more strategic collaboration in 2017. The first joint project was implemented in April 2017 aiming to build capacities for youth information workers who offer opportunities to young people in a variety of areas, including youth mobility:

Reaching more young people

Promotion of Youth Work and Youth Information Centres

European training – 5-7 April 2017, Brussels

Youth work, youth information and counselling services provide **high quality guidance** to young people and help them make decisions to lead their lives constructively. These services also have a remarkable **preventive function** that constitutes a great added value to society. Despite the importance of these services in supporting young people to achieve their full potential, it is still difficult for many youth work, youth information and counselling providers to **effectively promote and reach the vast majority of young people** that do not take advantage of these services.

Partial Agreement Report 2017

In order to respond to this need and to ensure that youth work and youth information providers count on the tools and skills needed to succeed in reaching as many young people as possible, and especially those that need it the most, EYCA, ERYICA and EURODESK run the joint project '**Reach More Young People: Promotion of Youth Work and Youth Information Services**', from January to June 2017. On 5-7 April 2017 a joint staff training will take place in Brussels in order to answer the needs identified by youth workers through an online survey that run from 1st February to 15 March 2017.

Agenda

Wednesday 5 April - Challenges and opportunities

Venue: Info-Point Europe, Rond-point Robert Schuman 12, 1040 Brussels

10:00 - 10:30	Registration
10:30 – 11:00	Welcome address from Jarkko LEHIKOINEN - EYCA President Eva REINA – ERYICA Director Audrey FRITH – EURODESK Director
11:00 – 11:30	Presentation of the results of the European survey “Identifying the needs of (youth) information workers”, Jessica Walker, Eryica
11:30 – 12:00	Coffee Break
12:00 – 13:00	Panel discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Violeta BIRZNIECE, DG EAC, European Commission• Tony GEUDENS, Salto Inclusion• Allan PÄLL, European Youth Forum• Concha FERNÁNDEZ IGLESIAS, General Direction for Youth and Sport, Comunidad de Madrid, Spain
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch break
14:00 – 15:30	Mapping main challenges of youth information workers in communicating with young people – Group discussions
16:00 – 18:30	Site Visits: Experience of Youth Work Centers in Brussels
19:00	Dinner at Chez Leon – Rue des Bouchers 18, 1000 Brussels

Thursday 6 April - Strategies & Tools

Venue: Eurodesk office, Scotland House, Rond-point Robert Schuman 6, 1040 Brussels

9:00 – 9:30	Introductory speech on “trends and technologies used in youth communication and marketing”, Joos Callens, MediaRaven	
9:30 – 12:30	Group A – Workshop led by Economia Creativa <i>Communicating for and with young people, adapting tools & strategies.</i>	Group B – Workshop led by MediaRaven <i>Encouraging youngsters to produce media. Difficulties & opportunities.</i>
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch	
13:30 – 16:30	Group A – Workshop led by MediaRaven <i>Encouraging youngsters to produce media. Difficulties & opportunities.</i>	Group B – Workshop led by Economia Creativa <i>Communicating for and with young people, adapting tools & strategies.</i>
16:30 – 18:00	Fair on good practices Presentation: Sean BOOKLES - Young Scot	
18:00	Intercultural evening and dinner reception at Eurodesk venue	

Friday 7 April – Cooperation

Venue: Eurodesk office, Scotland House, Rond-point Robert Schuman 6, 1040 Brussels

9:00 – 9:30	Opening session
09:15 – 10:45	Speaker: Jalken ANTONIA “Reaching out to young people with fewer opportunities”
10:45 – 11:00	Coffee break
11:00 – 12:30	World Café Session “Looking forward to the Future: Identifying common strategies”
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch
13:30 – 15:00	Preparing the e Publication: identifying and sharing good practices. Case Studies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Katarina BRAJDIC, Time to Move Campaign, Eurodesk coordinator for Croatia, Agency for Mobility and EU Programmes • Marco GIL-CERVANTES, ProMo-Cymru, United Kingdom
15:00 – 15:30	Coffee break
15:30 – 16:00	Evaluation/Reflection on the learning process and Youthpass Certification
20:00	Farewell dinner at Dolma - Chaussée d’Ixelles 329, 1050 Brussels

Saturday 8 April – Departures

Departure of participants

- **March and October 2015: EU Youth Conferences in Malta and Estonia**

EYCA attended the two EU conferences that took place in 2017 as part of its work to support the EU Structured Dialogue with young people.

All of the above mentioned youth organisations are natural partners for EYCA in the field of youth policy as well as volunteering/active citizenship/youth information projects. EYCA is looking into possible joint projects and/or co-branded cards or cooperation on national level by member organisations. Several meetings and contacts were made with different governmental representatives in order for them to consider join the Partial Agreement.

IV. POLICY APPROACHES AND INSTRUMENTS BENEFITING YOUNG PEOPLE AND CHILDREN

1. Commissioning technology infrastructure

To support the operation of the common cardholders database (CCDB). In order to increase the database with additional member organisations, a CCDB plan divided in 3 phases was created by the EYCA Office with the goal to have as much as possible European Youth Cards in this system by the end of 2018.

Program has been implemented and right now we have more than 3 millions cards on this system.

2. Travel board and lodging associated with negotiating with potential PA members

- PA Promotional Seminar In Varna, Bulgaria (14 – 16 December 2017). Please see report here.

Introduction

This promotional seminar was part of the 2017 programme of activities of the Council of Europe Partial Agreement on Youth Mobility through the Youth Card. It was organised by the Partial Agreement on Youth Mobility and the European Youth Card Association (EYCA) in co-operation with the National Youth Card Association Bulgaria /NYCA/ and Varna – European Youth Capital Association /Varna – EYC/.

In 2017 Varna was awarded the title European Youth Capital. The Slogan of the Capital is InnoWave Varna, promoting social innovation among young people and youth organizations. In that context, Varna – EYC 2017 and NYCA, signed an agreement.

The agreement supports common actions between both organizations such as the promotion of the Capital by printing the logo on European Youth Cards and sending information to all cardholders about the activities in 2017 and 2018.

The main objectives of the seminar were to:

- Promote the European Youth Card as a tool for policy development and implementation, at local, national and European levels, especially towards Government representatives;
- Encourage Governments who have not signed the Partial Agreement on Youth Mobility to do so and mainstream 'youth mobility' as a priority in their public policies;
- Share good practices on how the European Youth Card is developed by EYCA members and get hands-on experience on how the youth card is used to provide services to young people at all levels.
- Promote the cooperation between Varna - European Youth Capital and NYCA as an example of good practice and encourage the future EYC and EYC Network to cooperate with EYCA on European level.

The seminar was organised **as a response to an interest** voiced by a number of states not yet party to the Partial Agreement, to learn more about it, as well as about the youth card and its implementation.

Therefore, **the profile of participants** was:

- Representatives of Governments working to develop and implement national youth policies and being interested to connect it with the European dimension as regards the youth card and youth mobility, from the following countries: Albania, Bulgaria, Greece and Belarus.
- Representatives of EYCA member organisations, including EYCA Board members;
- National public authorities of Bulgaria;
- Representatives of the European Youth Capitals Varna (Bulgaria) and Cascais (Portugal);

Content-wise, the seminar consisted of presentations on:

- The role of [Partial Agreement on Youth Mobility through the Youth Card](#) of the Council of Europe;
- The different models and topic on how the youth card can be used to implement youth policies;
- Connecting the youth card and various programmes in the youth field, such as European Youth Capital.

The first day was dedicated to introduce the Partial Agreement: how it works and what are the benefits of joining it. The overall objective of the Partial Agreement is for member governments and EYCA member organisations to work together to create better mobility solutions for young people. This general objective implies two main aims:

- ❖ Development of the Youth Card scheme;
- ❖ Development of youth policies with and for member governments.

Currently, the following states are part of PA on Youth Mobility: 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.

Participants asked clarifications related to:

Q: How the Partial Agreement can be joined and who signs it?

A: In most of the cases, it is the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which technically signs the PA. However, the institutions responsible on youth affairs (Ex: Ministry of Youth) are the one attending the events, following the process, benefiting of the available resources etc.

Q: What is the contribution fee for joining the PA and who is responsible for it?

A: The fee varies according to the youth population in each country and there is a standard formula for calculus. The Government in principle does the payment, but it is a matter of internal decision.

Participants also were offered more details about the benefits of being part of the PA:

- Tailored services on how the youth card can be used to advance different policy issues;
- Access to PA seminars, conferences and events;
- Stronger connection with the civil society and especially the EYCA member organisation, which implements the card in their country.

The full presentation of EYCA can be accessed here: <https://goo.gl/ZkKurD>

The second day of the seminar started with presentation of the European youth policies and current undergoing processes in the youth sector:

- ❖ The preparation of Council of Europe Agenda 2030
- ❖ The preparation of new EU Youth Strategy.

Based on the CoE youth priorities for 2018 -2019, participants brainstormed on different ways to use the youth card in order to implement them:

- ❖ How can the youth card facilitate access to rights for young people?

- Develop information campaigns among young cardholders, especially using a youth-friendly and accessible language;
- Set-up a peer service of law students advising other young people on how to use legal instruments and access their rights;
- Offer brochures, information and support in the youth centres where the card is distributed.

❖ How can the youth card boost youth participation and quality of youth work?

- Use the youth card platforms to stimulate youth engagement on various civic topics, especially using social media available;
- Link the youth card to various youth representation platforms (ex: youth parliaments, youth councils, youth forums etc.);
- Use the youth card to promote youth participation in elections and voting;
- Organise digital events such as Facebook live meetings with decision-makers or group consultations, instagram-takeovers or thunderclap for different causes that stimulate youth participation;
- Link the youth card to strategic policy documents, such as the European Charter for Democratic Citizenship or the next EU Youth Strategy;
- Support the professionalization of youth work and recognition as a career path;
- Support validation of non-formal education.

❖ How can the youth card be used to promote peaceful and inclusive societies?

- Offer specific programmes to young migrants and refugees to support their social inclusion;
- Organise seminars on tackling youth violent radicalisation;
- Use the youth card to reduce stigma, discrimination and social exclusion;
- Use the youth card as a tool to promote positive behaviours.

The seminar continued with presentations of EYCA member organisations and different specific questions, which were answered on the spot, by EYCA members.

The presentations are available here:

National Youth Card Association | the role of card in youth programmes - <https://goo.gl/dt6JvH>

Young Scot | The Youth Card as a tool for youth engagement - <https://goo.gl/Aj9WjZ>

Agencia Catalana de la Joventut | The Youth Card promoting youth participation - <https://goo.gl/jAS5qV>

CJP Card | the cultural role of the Youth Card - <https://goo.gl/ozAhMA>

Govern de les Illes Balears | The Youth Card promoting social inclusion - <https://goo.gl/Wfo1mP>

Movijovem | The Youth Card promoting mobility - <https://goo.gl/M59YXf>

During the second part of the day, EYCA guests and participants had a meeting with the representatives of Network of European Youth Capital (informal platform). The meeting consisted of:

- Presentations of two platforms and their initiatives in the youth sector;
- Presentation of outreach to young people, main beneficiaries and topics of interest;
- Possible paths of collaboration and exchange of hand-outs;
- Agreement on the possibility to have a more strategic meeting where both platforms can explore, in detail, the various ways of collaboration.

List of participants

Name	Surname	Institution
Briseida	Dokou	Ministry of Education, Research & Religious Affairs, Government of Greece
Shpati	Kolgega	Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth, Government of Albania
Luidmila	Kozhuhovskaya	Ministry of Youth and Sports, Government of Belarus
Marina	Galstyan	Ministry of Youth and Sports, Government of Armenia
Veselina	Georgieva	Ministry of Youth and Sports, Government of Bulgaria
EYCA representatives		
Victoria	Solera Ripoll	Institut Balear de la Joventut
Sergio López	Parareda	Institut Balear de la Joventut
Carlos	Nunes	Movijovem
Josep	Moline	EYCA Board
Juan	Olivia	Market AAD
Domenec	Ballester	Agncia Catalana de la Juventut
Marie	Duguid	Young Scot
Lilia	Elenkova	NYCA Bulgaria
Mike	Mestebeld	CJP
Wendy	Hoogeboom	CJP
Günther	Bedson	Swissedu Net
Ivelina	Peeva	EYCA Board
Manel	Sanchez	EYCA Office
Corina	Pirvulescu	EYCA Office

PROGRAMME OF THE SEMINAR

DAY 1 – 14 December 2017	
14.00	<p>Welcome address by hosts and organisers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manel Sanchez - EYCA Director • Bilyana Raeva – President of Varna 2017 Association • Iveina Peeva – National Youth Card Association <p>Round of introductions from participants</p>
GENERAL SESSION	
14.30 -16.00	<p>Presentation and discussion:</p> <p>The Partial Agreement and its role in the implementation of youth policies in member states – examples of good practice from governments</p>
16.00 – 18.00	<p>Varna sightseeing tour</p> <p>Guide will present the history and beautiful architecture and sculpture of Varna. Participants will visit as well 3 youth spaces:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Tea House • Innovator • Hall 3
19.30	Dinner at the hotel
DAY 2 - 15 December 2017	
09.30 – 10.15	Mapping the youth policy landscape – Where can the European Youth Card have a role in national and transnational cooperation
GOOD PRACTICE EXAMPLES	
10.30 – 11.15	<p>The European Youth Card and effective youth policies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Youth Card Association The role of card in youth programmes • Young Scot The Youth Card as a tool for youth engagement <p>Questions and answers</p>
11.15 - 11.30	Coffee break

GOOD PRACTICE EXAMPLES (continued)	
11.30 – 13.00	<p>The European Youth Card and effective youth policies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agencia Catalana de la Juventut The Youth Card promoting youth participation • CJP Card The cultural role of the Youth Card • Govern de les Illes Balears The Youth Card promoting social inclusion • Movijovem The Youth Card promoting mobility
13.00 – 14.00	Lunch
YOUTH CARDS & PROMOTING YOUTH ACHIEVEMENTS	
14.00 – 17.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of European Youth Capitals Network and reflection on possible future cooperation between both organizations ✓ Short presentation of the results of EYC Network meeting ✓ Short presentation of the cooperation between NYCA and Varna in 2017 ✓ Cross-points of future activities in favor of the capacity development of young people at local, national and European level – mobility, participation, inclusion?
17.00 – 17.15	Closing remarks
18.30	<p>Ceremonial dinner of the European Youth Capitals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Ivan Portnih, Varna Municipality, Mayor • Mr Carlos Carreiras, Cascais, Mayor • Kristen Argio, European Youth Forum, Board member
DAY 3 – 16 December 2017	
Departures	