



Budapest, 18 November 2020

11th European Platform of Youth Centres

19-20 November 2020

Link: <https://bluejeans.com/187925700>

Programme

Involving Youth Centres in the youth policy & youth work of the Council of Europe

The European Youth Centres in Budapest and Strasbourg are the backbone of the Council of Europe's youth sector. They serve as educational laboratories for the development of quality standards for youth work and focal points for innovation in youth policy development. Through the European Youth Centres, the Council of Europe offers young people and the formal and non-formal structures of youth civil society across Europe, high-level educational support, protected physical spaces and residential facilities, and access to all other sectors of the Council of Europe. The work programme of the European Youth Centres is a unique combination of policy development, training, research and educational innovation. They are centres of excellence and a central pillar of the reputation of the Youth Department of the Council of Europe as a standard setter in the youth sector.

In 2008, the European Steering Committee on Youth (CDEJ) adopted a project to promote the European Youth Centres of the Council of Europe as standard-setting instruments and examples of good practice for youth policy. This project aims at knowledge sharing and networking among youth centres across Europe.

The Council of Europe Quality Label for Youth Centres project includes three main components:

1. The Council of Europe Quality Label for Youth Centres, to be awarded to youth centres that meet the standards;
2. Training and capacity building measures, including an annual training course, for the educational staff of the youth centres involved in the network;
3. An annual meeting of the European Platform of Youth Centres to ensure networking and experience sharing among centres recognised with the Quality Label and those aspiring to its acquisition.

The annual European Platform meeting

The Platform serves as a space for exchange and knowledge sharing among the Quality Labelled Youth Centres and those aspiring to its acquisition. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the 11th Platform will be organised online on 19-20 November 2020.

Objectives

- to inform about recent developments in youth policy on European level and to discuss how they can be used by the centres for recognition of their work and impact;
- in light of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, to exchange experience and practices among centres in how they address the challenges they are facing at national, regional and local levels,
- to develop joint approaches to promote the youth centres and quality youth work;
- to ensure networking and cooperation possibilities among Labelled Youth Centres.

Youth Centres and Covid-19

In recent years the annual Platform meeting has address a certain thematic and developed new approaches to reinforce the standards of youth centres in the Quality Label network and linkages between the youth centres and the Council of Europe. Due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, the 11th Platform meeting will mainly focus on the common challenges that youth centres across Europe are facing with respect to the current crisis. The meeting will provide the space for youth centres to exchange on approaches (and new opportunities) to overcome those challenges and to share new ways to provide access to alternative learning opportunities for young people during the ongoing pandemic. The meeting will also include an update of the Council of Europe youth sector's responses to the crisis and discuss required support from national authorities as well as Council of Europe to youth centres.

Participants

The Platform will bring together:

- managers and other key staff members of the youth centres awarded the Quality Label, youth centres currently in the process of acquiring the Quality Label, or youth centres planning to initiate such process;
- Members of the European Steering Committee for Youth (CDEJ), other representatives of national youth ministries who support a selected youth centre, and Advisory Council on Youth.

Working language

The Platform meeting will be held in English only.

Further inquiries

For further information, please contact Bettina Kreisz programme assistant at bettina.kreisz@coe.int

Thursday 19 November, 9.15-17.00 CET

- 09.15 Opening and welcome address
Georges Metz, Director of the National Youth Service of Luxembourg and member of the Quality Label for youth centres expert team; and Gordana Berjan, Executive Director of the EYCB and coordinator of the Quality Label programme
- 09.30 State of play – presentations of youth centres on the latest developments since June 2020 addressing the following:
- *current situation of the pandemic in the country/region and support given (if any) from public authorities*
 - *current situation for the youth centre to operate (fully/partially operational, new restrictions in place etc...)*
 - *management of the different phases of the pandemic in the last six months (exit from lockdown, summer period, 2nd wave in autumn...) and effects on staff situation, youth programmes and activities, contact with youth target groups etc.*
 - *perspectives and next steps for the youth centre in terms of operations.*
- 11.45 Break
- 12.15 Update on the latest developments in the Council of Europe's youth sector
Antje Rothmund, Head of Youth Department, Council of Europe
- 13.00 Break (lunch)
- 14.15 Education and training offers in youth centres during the pandemic: experimenting with and shaping new youth work spaces and methods in the online environment. How quality labelled youth centres have managed to switch from conventional residential programme and training activities to developing digital youth work and online learning opportunities for young people.
- Quality Labelled youth centres' innovation in education programmes during the pandemic
- *Gareth Hartevelde, Youth Programme Development Manager, eurÓg Killarney Youth Centre, Ireland*
 - *Vladimir Budalić, Youth Worker, Youth Centre EkoCentar Radulovački, Sremski Karlovci, Serbia*
- Council of Europe's Youth for Democracy programme
- *Natalia Chardymova, Educational Advisor, Education and Training Division, Youth Department*
- 15.40 Break
- 16.00 Good practices for and with young people to mitigate the effects of the pandemic
- Promoting positive mental health and wellbeing during Covid-19: "KDYS Wellness Challenge"
- *Maria Quirke, participant of initiative introduced by Anne Murphy, Youth Information Coordinator, eurÓg Killarney Youth Centre, Ireland*

Social activism, youth participation and making young people's voices heard: "Give a Time – Da um tempo"

- *Ana Cristina Garcia and Rosário Nunes, Staff members of Lisbon Youth Centre, Senior Technicians, Portuguese Institute for Sports and Youth, Portugal*

Social activism of youth and youth voices on the pandemic: "Campaign Slow and Steady Wins the Race"

- *Anne Murphy, Youth Information Coordinator, and Youth Ambassador, eurÓg Killarney Youth Centre, Ireland*

Social activism of youth, youth voices on the pandemic and policy responses to the crisis: "Torino Plurale - diverse response of youth centres in a polycentric urban fabric"

- *Claudio Tocchi, Staff of the Deputy Mayor of Torino in charge of Human Rights, Torino Youth Centre, Italy*

17.00 Closing of the day

Friday 20 November, 9.15-13.00 CET

09.15 Introduction of the day

09.30 Looking to the near future and summarising the lessons learned (so far) for youth centres since the outbreak of the pandemic (working groups):

- *identifying persisting and common challenges of youth centres and strategies for overcoming those barriers;*
- *new developments that have enriched the work of the youth centres and its programme offers that should be further advanced;*
- *identifying possible areas of cooperation to tackle specific challenges within the network of (quality labelled) youth centres;*
- *identifying the support needed from public authorities and European institutions, i.e. Council of Europe to youth centres*

11.00 Break

11.30 Presentation of the 3rd European Youth Work Convention, 7-10 December followed by a discussion on the participation and role of quality labelled youth centres.

- *Barbara Schmidt dos Santos, Project Coordinator, JUGEND für Europa, National Agency for the EU Programmes, Germany*

12.00 Updates and future initiatives of the Council of Europe Quality Label for Youth Centres Programme, including the Long-term training course for Quality Labelled Youth Centres, E-learning phase

- *Bogdan Imre and Dragan Atanasov, Members of the trainers' team of the quality label long-term training course for youth centres*

12.40 Conclusions and evaluation

- *Aleksandra Vidanović, Rapporteur, Trainers Pool of the Council of Europe*

13.00 Closing of the meeting