



Budapest, 19 Nov 2021

12th European Platform of Youth Centres

23-24 November 2021
European Youth Centre Budapest

Link for online participation:
<https://bluejeans.com/943105912>

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 programme 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. Capacity building support and an annual training session 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.

European Platform meeting

The annual meeting of the European Platform of Youth Centres serves as a space for exchange and knowledge sharing among the Quality Labelled Youth Centres and those aspiring to its acquisition. The 12th Platform will take place at the European Youth Centre Budapest (EYCB) on 23-24 November 2021.

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;
- to exchange experience and practices among centres in how they address the challenges they are facing at national/regional/local levels, especially in light of the crisis caused by the Covid-19 pandemic;
- to develop joint approaches to promote the youth centres and quality youth work;
- to exchange good practices in terms of sustainable management in youth centres;
- to ensure networking and cooperation possibilities among Labelled Youth Centres.

Thematic focus – sustainable management

Currently, with 14 Quality Labelled Centres and several other youth centres remaining ready to enter an evaluation process, the network has developed into a strong core group of centres that successfully promote multilateral cooperation and the values and principles of the Council of Europe.

In 2021, the Platform will address the strategies and approaches of labelled youth centre to restart its work after the closedown caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, exchange on emerging and new challenges that youth centres and youth work will be faced with in the aftermath of the pandemic. In light of this, the Platform meeting will also explore sustainable management strategies applied

in youth centres with the aim to discover common/different measures and approaches and exchanging good practices that can serve as inspiration. It is expected that this year's programme can build on previous years' stimulating experience and offer a strategic discussion and exchange among managers (and other key staff) on sustainable management in youth centres. In response to participants' needs and expectations, additional themes of common interest are to be addressed during the meeting as well as an update on latest development at European/Council of Europe level.

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;
- decision-makers planning to establish a youth centre with Council of Europe philosophy and quality standards;
- Members of the European Steering Committee for Youth (CDEJ), and other representatives of national youth ministries who support a selected youth centre.

Working language

The Platform meeting will be held in English only.

Practical arrangements

The Platform meeting will be held from 23 to 24 November 2021 at the European Youth Centre Budapest. Participants are requested to attend for the entire duration of the meeting and are asked to plan their arrival for 22 November in the afternoon and their departure for 24 November after lunch. More information on how to arrive to the EYCB can be found here:

<https://www.coe.int/en/web/youth/eyc-budapest>

Accommodation in single rooms will be provided for the duration of the Platform meeting at the EYCB. To ensure your meals and accommodation are reserved, we kindly ask you to send Bettina Kreisz (bettina.kreisz@coe.int) your arrival and departure dates and times and any dietary needs you might have as soon as possible.

Further inquiries

For further information, please contact Bettina Kreisz programme assistant, youthcentres.quality@coe.int

Monday, 22 November

- Arrival and check-in
- 19.00 Dinner in EYCB restaurant
- 20.00 Welcome drinks

Tuesday, 23 November

- 07.00-08.15 Breakfast in EYCB restaurant (*fixed time due to Covid protocol*)
- 09.15 Opening and welcome
Gordana Berjan, Executive Director, EYCB and Coordinator of the Quality Label for Youth Centres Programme
- 09.30 Reconnecting and exiting a crisis period: lessons learned and way forward
Georges Metz, Director, National Youth Service Luxembourg, Member of the Quality Label expert team
- State of play and updates from youth centres on the latest developments addressing:
- *Operational capacities of youth centres based on current situation of the pandemic in respective country*
 - *Exiting/post-Covid-19 strategies and recovery plans for youth centres/ youth work/youth policies in respective country/region*
 - *Emerging issues, aggravated societal challenges impacting youth, and new assignments/opportunities for youth centres to address considering recent experiences and/or youth policy related developments*
- 11.30 Coffee break
- 12.00 Update on the latest developments in the Council of Europe's youth sector – exchange with Antje Rothmund, Head of Youth Department, Council of Europe
- 13.00 Lunch
- 14.30 The active engagement of youth and youth centres in sustainable development efforts to achieving sustainable, inclusive and stable societies
- Greening the Council of Europe's youth sector
Pegah Maysha Moulana, Member of the Council of Europe's Advisory Council on Youth
- EU-Council of Europe Youth Partnership work on sustainability
Neringa Tumenaite, Member of the Pool of European Youth Researchers
- Sustainability at the European Youth Centres in Budapest and Strasbourg
Balint Molnar, Deputy Director EYCB
- 15.30 Coffee break

- 16.00 Sustainability work in the Quality Label network of youth centres:
- Marttinen youth centre, Villa Elba and the network of Finnish youth centres
Sami Sorjonen, International Youth Work Coordinator; Catarina Silvander, Manager
 - Lisbon and Braga youth centres, Portugal
Eduarda Maria Gomes Marques, Manager; Fernanda Oliveira Brito, Coordinator; Pedro Soares, Manager
 - Destelheinde-Hanebos and De Hoge Rielen youth centres, Belgium (Flemish)
Myriam Vanvinckenroye, Coordinator
 - Sremski Karlovci "Ekocentar Radulovački" youth centre, Serbia (tbc)
Nikola Blagojevic, Manager
- 18.00 Closing of the day
- 19.00 Buffet dinner EYCB (4th floor lobby area)

Wednesday, 24 November

- 07.00-08.15 Breakfast in EYCB restaurant (*fixed time due to Covid protocol*)
- 09.15 Introduction of the day
- 09.30 The European Youth Work Convention and the follow up of the Agenda: the role and opportunities of quality labelled youth centres
Tanya Basarab, Research and Policy officer, EU-Council of Europe Youth Partnership
- European cooperation in the field of youth in 2022: the 50th anniversary of the Council of Europe's youth sector and launch of new youth campaign on revitalising democracy
Antje Rothmund, Head of Youth Department, Council of Europe
- 11.00 Coffee break
- 11.30 Youth centres events and initiatives in 2022 open for European cooperation and partnerships within the quality label network
- Quality Label for Youth Centres Programme activities in 2022
- 12.30 Conclusions and closing of meeting
- 13.15 Lunch
- Departure