



Budapest, 30 May 2018

# **9th EUROPEAN PLATFORM of YOUTH CENTRES**

European Youth Centre Budapest  
5-6 June 2018

**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 less 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 components:

1. The Council of Europe Quality Label for Youth Centres, to be awarded to youth centres that meet the standard;
2. An annual training session for the educational staff of the youth centres involved in the network, and;
3. N annual meeting of a 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 European Platform of Youth Centres**

is organised annually and is a platform for exchange and knowledge sharing among the youth centres recognised with the Quality Label and those aspiring to its acquisition. The 9<sup>th</sup> Platform will take place at the European Youth Centre Budapest (EYCB).

### **Objectives**

- to inform about recent developments in youth policy on European level and to discuss how they can be used by the centres in terms of recognition of their work and impact;
- to exchange experience and practices among centres in how they address the challenges they are facing at national level;
- to develop joint approaches in order to promote the youth centres;
- to ensure networking and cooperation possibilities among labelled centres.

### **Thematic focus of the 9<sup>th</sup> Platform**

The initial aim of the Quality Label project was to reach a number of 10 to 15 labelled centres across Europe. Today 11 centres are labelled and several other youth centres remain ready to enter an evaluation process and to receive a visit from the Quality Label expert team. There is now a strong core group of youth centres, which move in the same direction promoting the core values of the Council of Europe and with the wish to develop successful bilateral and multilateral projects.

At its most recent meeting in January 2018, the Quality Label expert team agreed to better outline and distinguish the annual Platform meeting from the training course for educational staff. There is currently some overlap between the training course and the Platform in terms of content as both meetings in the past have addressed issues on educational orientation and programmes of the centres. The profiles of the participants in both meetings have also intersected.

After eight successful editions of the Platform and the organisation of the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual training course in February 2018, it was found necessary to look at the format and content of the Platform meetings. In terms of format the expert team decided to reduce the length of meetings (to 1,5 programme days instead of 2,5 in the past) so that managers realistically can prioritise to

attend. In terms of content, the Platform meeting will focus more on common challenges managers are being faced with in running a (QL) youth centre and on other strategic issues. It is hoped that this year's programme proposal can offer a thought-provoking strategic discussion and exchange between managers (and other key staff) of youth centres on the relevance and impact of youth centres as unique educational establishments.

### **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;
- representatives of national youth ministries who support a selected youth centre and who participate as a tandem.

*Pedagogical staff should primarily attend the annual Quality Label training course.*

### **Working language**

The Platform meeting will be held in English only.

### **Practical arrangements**

The Platform meeting will be held from 5 to 6 June 2018 at the European Youth Centre Budapest. Participants are requested to participate for the entire duration of the meeting and are asked to plan their arrival for 4 June in the (late) afternoon and their departure for 6 June after 2pm. 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 is reserved we ask you to send Erzsebet Banki ([erzsebet.banki@coe.int](mailto:erzsebet.banki@coe.int)) as soon as possible your arrival and departure dates and times and any dietary needs you might have.

### **Further inquiries**

For further information, please contact Erzsebet Banki, programme assistant, [youthcentres.quality@coe.int](mailto:youthcentres.quality@coe.int)

## Monday, 4 June

- Arrival and check-in
- 19.00 Dinner
- 20.30 Informal welcome & drinks

## Tuesday, 5 June

- 09.00 Opening & welcome
- Address by:*
- *Antje Rothmund, Head of Youth Department, Council of Europe*
- 09.30 Presentation of participants and youth centres: round of introduction
- 10.00 State of play: progress and developments since the 8<sup>th</sup> Platform meeting
- *Gordana Berjan, Coordinator of the Quality Label for Youth Centres Programme, EYCB, Council of Europe*
- 10.30 Coffee break
- 11.00 Thematic session I: The relevance of youth centres as educational establishments – how to pitch the value of youth work in youth centres successfully
- *Georges Metz, Director of the National Youth Service Luxembourg, Member of the Quality Label Expert Team*
- 12.30 Lunch
- 14.00 Thematic session II: Council of Europe Recommendation on Youth Work – enhancing the provisions of quality youth work
- *Antje Rothmund, Head of Youth Department, Council of Europe*
- 15.30 Coffee break
- 16.00 Thematic session III: The possibilities of (quality labelled) youth centres in the development of youth policies
- *Tim Odonoghue, CEO Euróg, Killarney Youth Centre, Ireland*
- 17:30 Closing of the day
- Guided tour of the European Youth Centre Budapest (optional)
- *Csaba Kedves, In-House Services Manager, EYCB, Council of Europe*
- 19:00 Boat cruise dinner on the Danube

## Wednesday, 6 June

- 09:00 Thematic session IV: Opportunities and challenges in setting up a national system of indicators and tools for youth centres to measure impact – the Finnish experience
- *Catarina Silvander, CEO Youth Centre Villa Elba, Finland*
- Discussion and input from other youth centres' experiences.

- 11:00 Coffee break
- 11:30 Future actions and activities of the Quality Label Programme
- Proposals for the 10<sup>th</sup> Platform meeting 2019
  - Providing peer support and multiplying the work of the youth centres at european, national and local levels
- 12.30 Conclusions, evaluation and closing of meeting
- 13.00 Lunch
- Departure