

International Conference "Youth Mobility - Perspectives of sustainable youth tourism in region", 09-12 May 2013, in Belgrade, Serbia.

Workshop: What governments can get from EYCA organisations

Why EYCA is the organisation every government needs?

By working with and investing in EYCA organisations, governments can get:

1. Direct access to young people in order to:

- communicate **to** them governmental policy on various issues (ex. healthy lifestyle, sport, culture, education, national campaigns, competitions, etc. etc.);
- communicate **with** them ("structured dialogue") in order to get knowledge about young people and insight into their real life (i.e. monitor trends and lifestyles);

This communication will happen in a non-bureaucratic, young-people-friendly style. EYCA organisations try to develop new creative ways for reaching young people.

2. Direct access to ALL young people (including the excluded and the vulnerable);

3. A mechanism to **implement** governmental policy (ex. a youth card can be used as a proof of age; for a concessionary travel, for social services like meals, local transport, entrance into libraries, etc.)

4. Accurate free of charge statistical data on young people and youth mobility; EYCA organisations can generate **new** data/intelligence on young people;

5. Expertise (if EYCA organisations participate in the work of governmental bodies) and **training** of civil servants on youth mobility and related issues;

6. Assistance with inter/national mobility of students and generally young people in a safe and quality-based way;

7. An alternative/supplementary channel for international co-operation (including access to international partners);

These seven advantages can in turn generate further benefits for the government, such as:

8. Help governments **develop adequate youth policy** and be more relevant to young people; and thus

9. Play its political role;

10. Improve government's and public authorities' public image and create excellent PR opportunities for them.

All these services and benefits are either free of charge or very cost-effective. Thus governments can have many-fold return on its co-operation with and investment in EYCA organizations.

A possible supplementary benefit can also be

11. Access to European funds to which governments don't have access due to their status; but if the project is done by an EYCA organization with governmental support, this project can apply for European Commission's funding.

Youth Cards

Youth cards promote:

young people's sense of responsibility, towards themselves and their community;
autonomy;
creativity;
curiosity.

Youth Cards provide:

New flexible opportunities for young people;
International networks for young people;
Non-formal education for young people;

Partial Agreement on Youth Mobility through the Youth Card

- Access to international **trainings** on youth mobility and related issues;
- Access to shared **experience, knowledge** and **data** on youth mobility;
- National and international PR (including through hosting seminars, trainings and other events)

In summary, the PA should help governments to shape their youth policy on mobility and related issues in complement to co-operation with EYCA organisations. It should also be a platform of intergovernmental co-operation.