



Call for Participants

Symposium on Youth Policy Cooperation in South East Europe: focus on recognition of youth work & non-formal learning

Albania, 1-3 October 2012

Organising partners: The European Commission (EU) and Council of Europe (CoE) through their partnership in the field of youth (EU-CoE youth partnership) in cooperation with the Ministry of Tourism, Culture, Youth and Sport of Albania; SALTO SEE RC, SALTO Training and Cooperation RC, SALTO EECA and Interkulturelles Zentrum - Austrian National Agency for the YiA Programme.

The organising partners are pleased to invite you to the **Symposium on Youth Policy Cooperation in South East Europe: focus on recognition of youth work & non-formal learning**. This event will take place in **Albania, 1-3 October 2012** (arrival of participants is foreseen for 30 September).

Description of the event

As a follow up to

- the earlier EU-CoE youth partnership / SALTO SEE Resource Centre activities in the region of South East Europe (Trogir, Croatia 2007; Belgrade, Serbia 2008; Brdo, Slovenia 2009),
- former training courses on the topic of recognition of non-formal learning/education organised by SALTO SEE and SALTO T&C (in particular: long-term training course 'Let's Train: Recognition of Non-Formal Learning in Youth Work' 2010/11)
- the country studies on youth policy released for Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kosovo¹, Montenegro, Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, including a synthesis report on these studies, and
- the Symposium on Recognition of Non-formal Learning organised jointly by the EU-CoE youth partnership, SALTO T&C Resource Centre and the German National Agency in November 2011, in Strasbourg,

¹ * All reference to Kosovo, whether to the territory, institutions or population, in this text shall be understood in full compliance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.



this Symposium aims to continue the reflection and exchange on youth policy cooperation in the region and – more specifically – to place the topic of recognition of non-formal learning/education and of youth work on the political agenda of the countries of the South East Europe region. The Symposium shall focus on the question of how to make youth work in the region more useful, valuable and recognised, particularly with regard to the role of youth work in strengthening civil society.

Placing the discussion into current debates around the value (and validation) of non-formal learning, employability, but also active citizenship, questions to address may be: What do we understand by recognition of non-formal learning/education and youth work? Why do we want to further develop non-formal learning and youth work? What measures are needed/can help to promote the recognition at different levels? Through inputs, panel discussions, presentations of good practice examples in the field taken by different actors, and open share of experiences, the Symposium will aim to encourage peer learning and reflection, and inspire participants to discuss follow-ups and take action in their own environments following the conference.

Objectives

- To strengthen the youth policy sector as an independent sector next to education;
- To raise awareness and understanding of what non-formal learning in youth work means, what it can achieve, and what recognition can mean;
- To increase recognition of non-formal learning in youth work in the countries of SEE and give a boost to measures in the field taken by public policies and NGOs at different levels;
- To inform about developments in the field taking place at European level (2012 EU Youth Report, preparation of a new EU policy initiative on validation of non-formal and informal learning, link to outcomes of the Symposium on Recognition of Non-formal Learning organised jointly by the EU-CoE youth partnership, SALTO TCP RC and the German National Agency in November 2011 & recent developments in this field);
- To encourage peer-learning and inspire participants to take initiatives after the conference.

Participants

We plan to recruit a good mix of policy-makers, researchers, youth workers and youth practitioners. Out of the envisaged total of around 80 participants, the majority is expected to come from the region of South East Europe, but still a significant number of places will be awarded to participants coming from other regions of Europe.

Costs

Travel, accommodation and meals will be covered by the organisers.



Interested? Apply now!

We look forward to your participation at this event and would be grateful to receive your application by **15th July at 23:59pm CET**.

The draft programme for this activity will soon be made available on the website of the EU-CoE youth partnership.

You may apply now on-line via [this link](#)

Further contacts:

Mr. Srd Kisevic from the EU-CoE youth partnership (tel.: +32 22865002; e-mail: srd.kisevic@partnership-eu.coe.int)

SALTO SEE Resource Centre, MOVIT NA MLADINA, Dunajska 22, SI - 1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia, Contact: Sonja Mitter Škulj, Tel.: +386-1-430 47 47, E-mail: sonja.mitter@salto-youth.net