

European Training Strategy 2015 - 2020: Supporting the development of quality youth work in Europe through capacity building

In 2002, shortly after the former YOUTH Programme (2000-2006) was launched, the European Commission developed and launched a new feature for the EU youth programme, the European Training Strategy (ETS) for the YOUTH Programme; some readers might remember it as the “Temple of Training”. Looking at a glance at the available financial resources provided under the YOUTH Programme for the training of youth workers and other youth work experts as well as for the networking of organisations working in the youth field, it became clear that there should be a more coordinated approach.

This would enable the main stakeholders in this field to find greater synergy in their work in the field of training and more cooperation projects to be carried out between them.

During the YOUTH Programme as well as the Youth in Action Programme (2007-2013), many successful synergies and cooperation projects were achieved under the “ETS roof”. In 2010, the SALTO Training and Cooperation Resource Centre (SALTO T&C RC) offered to the European Commission to renew the ETS in order to better link it to the developments which happened in the meantime in the European youth policy and youth work arena. The „European Training Strategy of the Youth in Action Programme²⁴” was adopted in Nov. 2010 by the Programme Committee of the Youth in Action Programme and the SALTO T&C RC was requested to support the European Commission in the implementation and further development of the ETS.

Many interesting projects carried out under the ETS 2007-2013 can be read in the brochure „Developing quality of youth work in Europe - The European Training Strategy of the Youth in Action



24 <https://www.salto-youth.net/downloads/4-17-2330/CJ-22-2010-2%20-%20Training%20Strategy.pdf>

Programme (2007-2013)²⁵. This brochure also made visible for the first time, the quantitative dimension of the Youth in Action; in particular with regard to resources provided by the programme to train youth workers and other experts and the support for learning organisations and their networking cross Europe. The Youth in Action Programme managed to support ca. 300.000 youth workers and other experts in the youth field to meet in ca. 16.000 activities and made available almost 150 Million Euro for this strand of the programme.

With Erasmus+: Youth in Action (2014-2020) a new generation of an integrated Programme started. In the framework of the European cooperation in the youth field, at the same time, the topic of the quality of youth work started to get a lot of political attention, e.g. in the EU Youth Strategy²⁶, the Declaration of the 1st European Youth Work Convention²⁷, the Resolution of the Council on youth work²⁸, the Council conclusions on the quality youth work²⁹ and the Work Plan of the European Union for Youth for 2014-2015³⁰.

Not only in response to this but also because the Erasmus+: Youth in Action Programme (2014-2020) will provide even more resources for youth workers, other experts and their organisations to learn and network across Europe, the European Commission plans to introduce in spring 2015 the European Training Strategy 2015 – 2020. This will aim to support the development of quality youth work in Europe through capacity building.

25 <https://www.salto-youth.net/downloads/4-17-3029/ETS-2007-13-Journal.pdf>

26 *Council Resolution on a renewed framework for European cooperation in the youth field (2010-2018)*

27 *Declaration of the 1st European Youth Work Convention, Ghent, Belgium, 7-10 July 2010*

28 *Resolution of the Council and of the representatives of the governments of the member states, meeting within the Council, on youth work (November 2010)*

29 *Council conclusions on the contribution of quality youth work to the development, well-being and social inclusion of young people (May 2013)*

30 *Resolution of the Council and of the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States, meeting within the Council, on a European Union Work Plan for Youth for 2014-2015*

Capacity building in this ETS context should cover the

- Micro-level - Human resource development: strategies and measures to equip individuals working as employees, free-lancer or volunteers in youth work with professional competences (knowledge, skills, attitudes) and access to information, knowledge and training that enables them to perform effectively,
- Meso-level - Organisational development: the elaboration of awareness, strategies, processes and procedures within a youth work organisation, but also in relationships between the different organisations and sectors (public, private and community) and
- Macro-level - Systemic framework development: making regulatory changes or creating systems and structures to enable organisations, institutions and agencies at all levels, and in all parts of youth work, to enhance their capacities.

The objectives of the ETS focus on the development of quality youth work in Europe through capacity building, by...

1. Encouraging European cooperation among the different stakeholders to foster quality youth work in Europe and its recognition through strategies for capacity building
2. Generating more knowledge about capacity building in youth work and its impact on quality youth work
3. Developing a modular system to train trainers in Erasmus+: Youth in Action in order to guarantee the development of the essential competences of trainers and the necessary high quality of trainings
4. Building a modular system of trainings for youth workers in Erasmus+: Youth in Action to foster a sufficient quantity and high quality of training based on a Competence Model for youth workers to work international,
5. Offering at EU level, capacity building tools for the support of quality youth work in Europe,
6. Supporting the competence building of Erasmus+: Youth in Action NA staff in the development of quality youth work.

With the implementation of the above mentioned aims and objectives, the ETS 2015-2020 aims to create a “European Academy for quality youth work” as a sustainable and continuous element for capacity building in youth work in Europe.



In addition, the ETS should have an impact beyond the Erasmus+:Youth in Action Programme: It should also support youth work development in the Erasmus+:Youth in Action Programme Countries as well as the countries covered under the Neighbouring Partner Country policy of the EU.

The ETS will be supported by an Advisory Board chaired by the European Commission. The SALTO T&C RC will most probably continue supporting the European Commission in developing and implementing the ETS and will carry out in cooperation with other stakeholders of the ETS, innovative projects being defined in the ETS under above-mentioned objectives. SALTO T&C RC will partly continue with projects started in the previous Programme period, for example with the further developments around the ETS competence model for trainers working at international level³¹ and will also develop and carry out new ETS projects.

In order to ensure visibility of the ETS and the dissemination and exploitation of its projects and products, the ETS will provide an ETS newsletter for youth work experts, linked to an ETS dedicated web-space at www.salto-youth.net. These measures will be accompanied by ETS Journals in 2017 and 2020 offering narrative descriptions of main achievements of ETS, exploring new challenges to be tackled and supporting stakeholders to increase cooperation. The SALTO T&C RC is looking forward to join challenging and interesting ETS projects during the coming years.

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31 <https://www.salto-youth.net/rc/training-and-cooperation/europeantotstrategy/trainercompetences/>