

2nd EUROPEAN YOUTH WORK CONVENTION

27-30 April 2015, Brussels

CALL FOR FACILITATORS / WORKSHOP LEADERS

Join the team of facilitators of the 2nd European Youth Work Convention!

What is it for?

Background information

In the context of the **Belgian Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe** the 2nd European Youth Work Convention will be organised on 27-30 April 2015 in Brussels, exactly five years after the 1st one that took place in Ghent, Belgium in 2010. Since then, numerous changes have taken place in the field of youth work in Europe and the opportunity should be seized to work towards a truthful youth work strategy. In this respect **the 2nd EYW Convention aims at reviewing the developments in the field from a new and positive perspective and deliver a strong message at political level.**

Given the agenda set by the Declaration of Ghent and the developments since then, there is an urgent need to map and evaluate the results in order to support the design of a **renewed youth work strategy, its agenda and a timed action plan.** Furthermore, the final declaration of the 2nd EYW Convention will also send a powerful message to the Member States of both the European Union and the Council of Europe as well as to the youth field itself to continue developing and renewing youth work. **A new balance is required** between the actual prevailing focus on youth work as an 'instrument' for labour market oriented learning and the recognition of individually gained competences, and the value of youth work for personal development, friendship and emancipation, citizenship, education/learning, cultural expression, and the right to play, amongst others.

At political level, the outcomes of the 2nd EYW Convention should be used to feed **a legal instrument on the value and significance of youth work in Europe**, to be discussed by the Joint Council on Youth as the statutory body of the youth sector of the Council of Europe and to be adopted by the Committee of Ministers.

For more information about the EYW Convention, please refer to the Fact Sheet attached to this call.

The approach

While reflecting on the conditions for the success of the 2nd EYW Convention, the European Steering Group defined its intention as follows:

- To provoke curiosity and interest;
- To stimulate engagement, exchange and contributions of all;
- To look at the youth work identity: smart, relevant, provoking, creative, fun, empowering;
- To keep an open spirit to explore new fields, ideas and solutions: process of discovery;
- To ensure a clear distinction between youth work in the field and youth work policy;
- To work toward identifying and building common ground;
- To reflect diversity: practice, policy, region, gender, and methodology.
- To keep a youth-friendly approach and languages;

- To ensure that each workshop can at the same time stand for itself as well as contribute to the Declaration;
- To make sure that we don't end up with the same 1st Convention / Declaration.

The 1st Convention focused on the dimensions of the EU Youth Strategy. The 2nd Convention must mark a **continuity** with the process initiated previously but at the same time, it must stand out as a **unique, relevant and ambitious** happening that will really bring this process **a step forward**.

While the 1st Convention tackled **diversity** of youth work, the 2nd Convention will focus on the **common ground** of youth work, which will form part of the background document – the mapping of the 'State of play of youth work' currently being elaborated by Professor Howard Williamson from the South Wales University – of the 2nd EYW Convention.

Who is this call for and what does it imply?

What is the desired profile?

We will be looking for about 20 facilitators/workshop leaders who:

- are experienced in facilitating workshops, working groups, debates, open spaces, or any other type of spaces for exchange and cooperation in the framework of large-scale events implemented at European and/or international level;
- are familiar with the principles and values of non-formal learning;
- have a vast knowledge of and experience in the field of youth work;
- are used to work with different groups of stakeholders;
- have concrete experience in/with at least two of the main themes of the 2nd EYW Convention (see point on themes and the application form);
- are fluent in English;
- not a selection criteria but as a plus: knowledge of any of the three Belgian languages (Flemish, French, German).

What type of facilitation are we talking about?

Even though the programme is not yet finalised (being currently elaborated) we can already say that several types of facilitation will be needed, ranging from facilitating debates to leading workshops on previously chosen topics, all in line with the main themes of the 2nd EYW Convention.

a. Thematic workshops

Those workshops will focus on **exchanges, debates and discussions**, using the opportunity of having professionals and a variety of stakeholders present to enrich the debates and the content of the final Declaration. Each 'thematic workshops block' in the programme (two blocks on the second day and one on the third day) will address two of the main themes (also called challenges) of the 2nd EYW Convention, though not in parallel inside each workshop. Since we so far estimate that we will have about 8 to 10 workshops in parallel, it means that within similar time slots, the two challenges will each be further tackled along four to five sub-topics (to be defined by the organising team). Each workshop will also have rapporteur, in charge of passing on the main insights and outcomes to the editorial team of the final Declaration.

b. Field visits

With the field visits, we hope to go beyond the theoretical approach, help identifying and building a common ground, be truthful to a non-formal approach, trigger interest and debate (and giving space to the expression of frustration), and illustrate what goes well (beyond a problem-solving approach).

Hence, the contents and the outcomes of the field visits will – as the thematic workshops – be **fully integrated into the Declaration**. For this reason, they will also be facilitated, though the host organisations will be the ones in charge of identifying what they want to tackle (in line with one or several of the main themes of the 2nd EYW Convention).

c. The ‘good examples of practice’ workshops

A priori, those workshops will not require external facilitation; they will be **proposed and [co]organised by the participants** (based on a call for proposals). Nevertheless, we can imagine that extra support might be necessary in some particular cases. If so, we might require the help of some of the facilitators.

We have foreseen two facilitators per workshops (thematic workshops and field visits) but please be ready for some flexibility, if needed. Each facilitator will be in charge of 2 to 3 workshops during the 2nd EYW Convention.

What will be the themes tackled?

In addition to the part dedicated to illustrating the idea of ‘common ground’ as the *guiding principle* of the 2nd EYW Convention, six main challenges¹ have been identified through a mapping of the current ‘state of play’ of youth work in Europe, currently being elaborated by Professor Howard Williamson of the University of South Wales:

1. What are the **objectives** – and anticipated outcomes - of ‘youth work’ at transnational and national levels – are they the same? If they are different, do they complement each other?
2. What are the various **patterns and practices** constituting ‘youth work’ (viewed from the inside) that remain consistent with those objectives; in other words, what is the range of activity that may count as youth work, and where are the borders and the boundaries? How is youth work ‘done’ today? How have new media – or other more recent developments - influenced the very youth work practice?
3. Where are the **connections** between ‘youth work’ and wider (outside) work with young people (formal education, training and employment, enterprise and entrepreneurship, democratic participation, health, housing, justice and more); how can and should such connections be made, while maintaining boundaries, through principles and ‘distinction’? In other words, how to look at the connections of youth work with the changes and developments in the society in general (social changes, demographic changes, etc.)? How to approach the dilemma between developing youth work with its own identity and visibility or developing a more collaborative approach (with other sectors)?
4. How can youth work secure **recognition** (beyond the youth field) for both its distinctive and collaborative practice and contribution to the lives of young people and the communities in which they live? How to work towards social, formal and political recognition of youth work ensuring keeping the independence of the youth field, its autonomy, and its uniqueness? What are the standards for that?
5. How could we strengthen professionalism in youth work practice to ensure quality? What kinds of **training** should be established for that (including training trainers on developing so-called ‘navigational capacities’)? What do we mean by quality?

¹ Please note that since the mapping is being further elaborated, the final number and ‘label’ of the challenges may change. Hence the above is just an indication.

6. How can political and public authorities be persuaded, beyond the rhetoric and the exhortations of the youth field, of the **value of 'youth work'** in order to support its application and development? How to deal with the questions of evidence and impact?

What are the conditions?

Fee

1680 EUR, based on: 280 EUR/day for 6 days: 2 days prep (1 remote day and 1 on the 26th) and 4 days meeting (Convention).

Requirements of the facilitators/workshop leaders

- Availability to be present during the preparatory day before the start of the 2nd EYW Convention (1 day - 26 April 2015);
- Availability to be present during the entire duration of the 2nd EYW Convention (4 days - 27-30 April 2015);
- Preparation of the methodology of the training in communication with the prep team, with the hosts (for the field visits) and the speakers/experts involved in the thematic workshops (if any);
- Facilitation during the 2nd EYW Convention;
- Provide a synopsis (session outline) of the workshops and complete it afterwards with the facilitator's impression on the outcomes.

Travel and accommodation

Travel and accommodation-related expenditures for the preparatory day and the whole duration of the Convention (arrivals ideally on 25th evening and departures on 30th afternoon) will be fully covered.

How to apply?

To submit your application, simply complete the attached registration form and submit it **no later than January 12, 2015** with a recent CV (2 pages maximum).

The selection will be finalised by the end of January 2015.

Any question?

It's too general? Or too much information? You have doubts about the procedure? Do not hesitate to contact us for more information: Gisele Evrard Markovic, gisele.evrard@jint.be, mobile: +381 69 688 078 or Leen Van Bockstal, Leen.VanBockstal@jint.be, phone +32 2 209 07 20.