

Council of Europe
Conseil de l'Europe



European Union
Union Européenne

Partnership between the European Commission
and the Council of Europe in the field of Youth

Symposium on Recognition of Youth Work and Non-Formal Learning

GETTING THERE...

14-16 November 2011
European Youth Centre, Strasbourg

Information for participants

1. Introduction

Recognition of non-formal learning and youth work has been the topic of various activities of the partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the field of youth, amongst which stand the support to the conference on the same topic in Prague in 2008 as part of Czech EU Presidency as well as the Youth Work Convention in July 2010 in Ghent, organised under the Belgian EU Presidency.

While considering the work done in the past 12 years by the Directorate of Youth and Sport of the Council of Europe and by the European Commission as well as other developments, a number of stakeholders have expressed the need for a more coordinated approach at European level, supported by the EU-CoE youth partnership.

As a first step, the working paper *Pathways 2.0 towards recognition of non-formal learning/education and of youth work in Europe* (hereinafter the 'Pathways paper') was updated by the EU-CoE youth partnership in cooperation with the European Commission, the Council of Europe, the European Youth Forum, the German National Agency for Youth in Action and SALTO Training and Cooperation Resource Centre. In the Pathways paper, ten elements of a renewed strategy for a better recognition of NFL/E in the youth field were identified.

As a follow-up and support to this initiative, the Management Board of the EU-CoE youth partnership decided to organise a *Symposium on recognition of youth work and non-formal learning*, in co-operation with the same institutional partners.

Moreover, to answer the need for a sustainable and coordinated development of recognition strategies as outlined in the *Pathways* paper, an Expert Group has been set up.

→ For more information about the background and the programme of the Symposium, please refer to the '[concept paper](#)'.

2. Aim and objectives

2.1. Aim

The Symposium aims at establishing a common ground for a medium and long-term coordinated strategy toward recognition of youth work and non-formal learning in Europe with the involvement of actors and stakeholders from the various sectors of policy concerned.

2.2. Objectives

- To discuss and reflect on the current realities and challenges of recognition of youth work and non-formal learning;
- To develop a common understanding of the milestones which led to such Symposium as well as to envision what needs to be achieved in a mid and long-term perspective;

- To link the different initiatives of the European Union (European Commission and Council of the European Union) and of the Council of Europe together with initiatives and processes of civil society and other actors to recognise and validate non-formal learning in the youth field as well as in the lifelong learning policy areas;
- To introduce and discuss the *Pathways towards recognition of non-formal and informal learning in the youth field 2.0* (hereinafter the 'Pathways paper') and to develop a roadmap of concrete measures and monitoring processes for its implementation (the Roadmap);
- To issue a declaration which will initiate a common European political process toward recognition of youth work and non-formal learning (the Declaration).

3. Profile of the group of participants

3.1. Composition

In order to ensure diversity and representativeness, the group of participants will be composed of various actors and stakeholders:

a) Researchers and practitioners in the field of youth and non-formal learning (e.g. trainers, youth workers/leaders, members of youth councils and youth organisations, etc.).

b) Other stakeholders (institutional partners), such as:

- The Council of Europe
 - Directorate of Youth and Sport - Education and training / Division for Youth Policies and Intergovernmental Co-operation, the European Steering Committee for Youth (CDEJ) - the Advisory Council (AC));
 - The North South Centre - Global Education;
 - Directorate of Education;
 - The CoE Parliamentary Assembly (Sub-Committee of Youth), The Conference of International Non-governmental Organisations, Congress of Local and Regional Authorities;
- The European Commission
 - DG EAC - Directorate of Education, Directorate of Youth and Sport (Youth Policy and Youth in Action units), Directorate of Lifelong learning;
 - DG Employment;
- Networks linked to Lifelong Learning and to the work of the European Commission: Centre for Research on Lifelong Learning (CRELL), the European Lifelong Guidance Policy Network (ELGPN), the Network of Experts in the Social Sciences of Education & Training (NESSE), EURIDE, ESCO (European Skills, Competencies and Occupations);
- The Trio Presidency;
- Representatives of national governments;
- Representatives of the network of National Agencies of the Youth in Action programme and of SALTO Resource Centres;
- The European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (CEDEFOP);
- MA European Youth Studies;

- Other actors, structures, institutions and/or agencies in related fields, such as: OECD, World Bank (WB), UNESCO, ILO, The Youth Employment Network (ILO-WB-UN), Eurochambers, Business Europe, EUAPME, Education International, ERYICA, EYCA.

3.2. Profile

The profile of the participants has been defined as follows:

- Be actively involved in one of the related areas/fields tackled by the Symposium (LLL, employment, youth work, non-formal and formal learning, education in general, etc.);
- Have expertise/experience in one of the related areas/fields tackled by the Symposium (LLL, employment, youth work, non-formal and formal learning, education in general, etc.) and the willingness to share good practices with the rest of the participants;
- Have a certain level of decision-making power in his/her structure/institution/organisation;
- Be committed to follow-up on the results of the Symposium, in particular on implementation of the Roadmap;
- Be committed to attend the full duration of the Symposium;
- Be able to work in English.

4. *Where, when and how to get involved?*

4.1. Working groups

The Symposium is mainly designed around 9 working groups which will dedicate a full working day to each strategic objectives of the Pathways paper, also called 'elements' (for the working groups, elements 9 and 10 of the Paper have been merged). The tasks of the working groups will be two-fold:

- a) Exchange, contrast and reflect on the topic of their working group;
- b) Define an action plan to implement the related element within a common European strategy/political process. The action plan of each group will be merged to become the Roadmap of the Symposium. A draft version of the Roadmap, as well as of the Declaration, will be presented to the working groups for questions, comments and clarifications.

The working groups are:

1. A common understanding and a joint strategy
2. The role and visibility of youth organisations
3. Quality and Training in non-formal learning
4. Knowledge on youth work and non-formal learning
5. Accessibility and transferability of recognition tools
6. Reinforce the political process at European level
7. Link to LLL strategy and vice-versa

8. Involve stakeholders of the employment sector
9. Associate the social sector and cooperate with other policy fields and with stakeholders of civil society

4.2. Different roles – reporting

The structure and methodology of the Symposium includes, as mentioned above, a number of working groups. In order to ease the work of the general rapporteur, the facilitators as well as of the drafting committee on the Declaration and Roadmap, we will need 9 rapporteurs, one per working group. A special call for rapporteurs will not be made.

Hence, we kindly ask you to indicate your possible interest and willingness – on top of your participation and on voluntary basis – to take this role in the Symposium (see application/registration forms). Please note that the rapporteurs will be asked to arrive in the afternoon on the day before the opening of the Symposium.

5. *Application and registration procedure*

5.1. Practical information

- The Symposium takes place from 14th to 16th of November 2011 (full working days) and participants are expected to attend the full duration of the event.
- Those who will have a role as rapporteurs are kindly requested to attend the briefing session which take place on the 13th of November 2011 (afternoon).
- **Board and lodging:** Accommodation and meals will be provided in the European Youth Centre Strasbourg. Due to a limited number of rooms some of the seminar participants may need to be accommodated outside of the EYCS. Priority regarding accommodation in EYCS will be given to the persons directly involved in the organisation and implementation of the Symposium (team members, facilitators, rapporteur general, video team, etc.), to some speakers, to youth workers, trainers, researchers and/or on case-by-case basis. A list of other possible accommodation in Strasbourg will be provided.

Institutional partners are requested to cover their own accommodation costs.

- **Travel:** A number of travel reimbursements are foreseen though to a limited extent. Hence and as above, priority for travel reimbursement will be given to the persons directly involved in the organisation and implementation of the Symposium, to some of the speakers, youth workers, trainers, researchers and/or on case-by-case basis. Please indicate in the application form whether you need a travel reimbursement (if so please provide an estimation of its cost).

Institutional partners are requested to cover their own travel costs.

5.2. Where to apply/register?

→ For researchers and practitioners in the field of youth and non-formal learning (e.g. trainers, youth workers/leaders, members of youth councils and youth organisations, etc.) – please use the online application form:

http://youth-partnership-eu.coe.int/youth-partnership/seminars/seminar_12.html

→ For other stakeholders – please use the online registration form:

http://youth-partnership-eu.coe.int/youth-partnership/seminars/seminar_13.html

The **deadline to submit the online forms is 20th August 2011.**

The applicants will be informed of the results by 10th **September 2011.**

Please note that in case of a high number of registrations the preparatory team may also need to make a selection based on the profile of the interested candidates.

5.3. Contact

In case of questions or problems with the online forms, please contact

Marta Mędlińska

Phone: +33 (0)3 90 21 4916

Email: Marta.Medlinska@partnership-eu.coe.int

<http://youth-partnership-eu.coe.int/youth-partnership/>

end of document