

Kaunas, Lithuania 22-25 October 2013



## Eastern Partnership Youth Forum

The Eastern Partnership Youth Forum is organised by the Agency of International Youth Cooperation, which is the Lithuanian National Agency of the Youth in Action Programme, in cooperation with the European Commission, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Social Security and Labour of the Republic of Lithuania and other stakeholders.

The Forum will take place in Kaunas from 22-25 October 2013, in the framework of Lithuania's Presidency of the Council of the EU and the Eastern Partnership Platform 4 'Contacts between people'. It will involve about 200 young people, youth workers, youth researchers and youth policy makers from both Eastern Partnership and Youth in Action Programme countries<sup>1</sup>.

The Eastern Partnership Youth Forum aims at giving greater visibility to the Eastern Partnership and Youth in Action Programme countries' joint youth cooperation, e.g. within the framework of the Eastern Partnership Youth Window. The Forum will specifically endeavour to:

- enhance the recognition of youth work and non-formal learning especially in the context of social inclusion, building on the synergies between international, national, regional and local levels;
- raise the quality and visibility of non-formal learning and youth work at the local level and foster exchange of good practice of youth work between Eastern Partnership and Youth in Action Programme countries<sup>1</sup>;
- showcase current youth cooperation within the framework of the Youth in Action Programme's Eastern Partnership Youth Window and explore opportunities offered by the future EU programme for education, training, youth and sport.

The Eastern Partnership Youth Forum meeting will offer participants the possibility to present their views on these topics, to share examples of good practice and discuss the latest research findings.

The outcomes of related activities such as the 2013 Lithuanian EU-Presidency youth conference, the Eastern Partnership Platform 4 youth event in Armenia in 2012, the conference "Eastern Dimension of Mobility", organised by the Polish EU Presidency in 2011, the EU-CoE Youth Partnership symposium on the recognition of non-formal learning and youth work and the first year of implementation of the Eastern Partnership Youth Window will be taken into consideration when organising the Eastern Partnership Youth Forum.

The Forum will also complement the activities undertaken by the European Youth Forum, which has identified strengthening of cooperation between the youth organisations of the EU Member States and Eastern Partnership countries as one of its priorities. In cooperation with the future EU Presidencies, the European Commission and other stakeholders, the European Youth Forum will engage to ensure follow-up

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<sup>1</sup> The Youth in Action Programme countries are the 28 EU Member States, the candidate for accession to the European Union Turkey and the countries of the European Free Trade Association: Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland.

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to the Eastern Partnership Youth Forum.

Working language: The Eastern Partnership Youth Forum will be held in English. Simultaneous interpretation from and to Russian/English will be provided in the plenary sessions. In the working groups, linguistic support will be available.

Coordinator of the event: Agency of International Youth Co-operation of Lithuania

Co –organisers of the EaP Youth Forum: European Commission, EU-CoE youth partnership, the Lithuanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, [SALTO Eastern Europe and Caucasus](#), [SALTO Training and Cooperation](#), the United Kingdom, Austrian, Polish and Latvian National Agencies of the Youth in Action Programme, the European Youth Forum. Moreover, different stakeholders from Lithuania are involved such as the Lithuanian Council of Youth Organisations (LIJOT) and the Ministry of Social Security and Labour.

More information: [www.youthforum2013.eu](http://www.youthforum2013.eu)

Direct link to the application form: <http://trainings.salto-youth.net/3647>





## Preliminary programme

### 22<sup>nd</sup> October

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#### Arrival and registration of participants

15.30	Sightseeing of Kaunas City for those arriving early that day. Interested participants will also be able to know examples of youth work on the spot.
18.30	<b>Reception by the mayor of Kaunas</b>
19.00	<b>Dinner and getting to know each other activities</b>

### 23<sup>rd</sup> October

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#### Opening of the Eastern Partnership Youth Forum

09.30		
10.00	<b>The context of the Eastern Partnership Youth Forum</b>	
10.30	<b>Keynote speech: The recognition of non-formal learning/education and youth work from and EU-Eastern Partnership perspective</b>	
11.30	<b>Opening of the European café (coffee break)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Various sorts of coffee, tea; snacks from various countries. Snacks partially contributed by participants</li></ul>	
11.50	Exploration of various spaces for learning and conversation, practical exercises with experts.	
	<b>Increasing the inclusiveness and quality of non-formal learning/education and youth work:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Keystones of non-formal education development and youth work in Eastern Partnership and Youth in Action</li></ul>	<b>Making non-formal learning/education and youth work' outcomes visible and transferable to other sectors (formal education, employment, etc.) building on the synergies between international, national, regional and local levels:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Tools and systems for competences assessment and recognition;</li></ul>



- Programme countries;
- Quality in youth work and non-formal education, practices and different tools.
- Visibility and campaigning advisors;
- Political advisors on local, regional and national youth strategies for non-formal learning and youth work development especially at local level;
- Showcase current youth cooperation within the framework of the Youth in Action Programme's Eastern Partnership Youth Window, share latest research findings.

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**Lunch break**

13.00

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14.30 Required competences and ways of learning in today's and tomorrow's Europe: Presentations by and discussions with researchers, future thinkers, human resource managers about the potential of non-formal education for young people in terms of envisaged changes and demands in social developments, education and employment.

15.30

**Parallel sessions/working groups.** Each thematic Working group can have sub-groups if the number of participants of the group exceeds 20. Working groups will be based on experts' inputs, best practice sharing and group discussions.

- **Making the results of non-formal education in youth work visible at local level;**
- **Ensuring inclusiveness and quality of non-formal education in youth work;**
- **Transferability of competences gained in non-formal education and youth work to other sectors.**

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**Review of the 1st day journey**

18.30

**Dinner**

19.00

Kaunas Social Club - space for participants of the Forum for conversations, music and dancing

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**24<sup>th</sup> October**

9.30

Introduction to the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of the Youth Forum

9.50

Introduction to the new European programme for education, training, youth and sport for 2014-2020

10.40

Reflection on potential of the new European programme for the process of recognition

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European café (coffee break)

11.00

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**Parallel sessions/working groups**

11.30

- a. Evidence-based youth policy and strategies development on local and regional levels;
- b. Strategies for ensuring quality of non-formal education and youth work provisions;
- c. Ways to develop or improve tools supporting learning and increasing recognition of outcomes of non-formal learning in youth work;

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Lunch

13.00

14.30

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Actions for Future: the space to develop actions for cooperation in the fields of youth work, youth policy, youth research and synergies among them at local, national and international level.

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European café (coffee break)

16.00

16.30

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Introductory statements and panel discussion on the Eastern Partnership youth cooperation and the outcomes of the meeting: Ms Algimanta Pabedinskienė, Minister of Social Security and Labour; Mr. Jan Truszczyński, Director-General DG Education and Culture; Mr Peter Matjašič, President of the European Youth Forum; representative of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum; general facilitator/rapporteur; project promoter and young person with experience in an Eastern Partnership youth project

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Evaluation and closure of the event

18.15

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Dinner and socialising at Kaunas Social Club

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**25<sup>th</sup> October**

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Departure of participants

## Context

The **Eastern Partnership** was launched in 2009 by the EU and its six Eastern European partners - Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine - to promote a broad range of political and economic reforms and assist the countries of the region move closer to the EU. The EU and Eastern Partnership countries share a commitment to international law and fundamental values, including democracy, the rule of law and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, as well as to market economy, sustainable development and good governance.

The EU and its partners have committed to further developing a multilateral dimension - involving all EU Member States and partner countries. This multilateral dimension is intended to strengthen and complement bilateral cooperation and facilitate the development of common positions and joint activities.<sup>2</sup>

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Eastern Partnership Summit will take place end of November 2013. In the context of this Summit, Lithuania is planning to host several side events such as the Eastern Partnership Youth Forum, the Eastern Partnership Business Forum, the Conference of Regional and Local Authorities (CORLEAP) and a wide range of other conferences and seminars.

The Eastern Partnership multilateral cooperation is supported by four platforms, which consist of meetings, held at least twice a year at the level of senior officials, to structure and discuss cooperation in the Eastern Partnership's four areas of cooperation, namely:

- Democracy, good governance and stability (Platform 1);
- Economic integration and convergence with EU policies (Platform 2);
- Energy security (Platform 3) and
- Contacts between people (Platform 4).

Platform meetings are held at least twice a year at the level of senior officials engaged in the reform work in the relevant policy areas. The platforms report to the annual meetings of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Eastern Partnership.

Platform 4 'Contacts between people', which deals with education, research and innovation, youth, culture and the audiovisual sector, is coordinated by the European Commission's Directorate-General for Education and Culture (DG EAC). It is accompanied by a Civil Society Forum, which holds a conference at least once a year, bringing together civil society representatives and officials of the European Commission, the European External Action Service (EEAS) and governments of the EU and Eastern Partnership countries to discuss the progress made in the Eastern Partnership and ensure the involvement of civil society in it.

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<sup>2</sup> Joint Communication to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions: Eastern Partnership – A Roadmap to the autumn 2013 Summit (Brussels, 15.5.2012, JOIN(2012) 13 final) [http://ec.europa.eu/world/enp/docs/2012\\_enp\\_pack/e\\_pship\\_roadmap\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/world/enp/docs/2012_enp_pack/e_pship_roadmap_en.pdf)

The current **Lithuanian Presidency of the Council of the European Union**<sup>3</sup> has put the Eastern Partnership as a priority on its agenda. It aims at

- Enhancing the social inclusion of young people, with particular emphasis on young people not in employment, education or training (NEETs);
- Promoting cross-sectoral cooperation as the underlying principle of an integral youth policy;
- Enhancing good practices on social inclusion of young people;
- Promoting cooperation in the youth policy field between young people from European Union and Eastern Europe and Caucasus countries.

The thematic priority 'social inclusion' of the current Trio-Presidency, to which Lithuania belongs, is also in the focus of the EU youth conference which takes place in Vilnius from 9 – 12 September 2013. During the conference young people, decision makers, youth researchers and other resource persons share their experience and examples of how social inclusion of young people can best be achieved.

At project level, in the field of youth cooperation between Eastern Partnership and Youth in Action Programme countries, an **Eastern Partnership Youth Window** was established with the aim to involve in 2012 and 2013 additional 21,000 young people and youth workers from Youth in Action and Eastern Partnership countries in youth exchanges, European Voluntary Service and training and networking activities.

To this end, an additional EUR 31.5 million has been made available for the two-year period through the Eastern Partnership Youth Window to Youth in Action National Agencies and the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) to fund projects which provide in particular support to young people with fewer opportunities living in rural or deprived urban areas. These projects raise awareness about the nature of youth work and promote the sharing of good practice in this field.

Cooperation at project level is complemented by structures which support youth cooperation between Eastern Partnership and Youth in Action Programme countries such as:

The **Eastern Partnership Youth Regional Unit** which was established by the European Commission's Directorate-General Development and Cooperation – EuropeAid (DG DEVCO) with the following objectives: to support capacity development of government and civil society actors in youth in Eastern Partnership countries; to mainstream youth across policy spheres; to develop a more comprehensive evidence base for youth policy and youth affairs; to target the needs of disadvantaged young people through the development of youth work and to ensure the visibility of the Eastern Partnership Youth Programme. The Eastern Partnership Youth Regional Unit is based in the Ukraine for the duration of three years.

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<sup>3</sup> <http://www.eu2013.lt/en>

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Synergies will be sought between the Eastern Partnership Youth Regional Unit and other structures supporting the Eastern Partnership Youth Window such as the Youth in Action **SALTO Eastern Europe and Caucasus Resource Centre**<sup>4</sup>, which provides trainings and information support for international youth cooperation with this geographic area and the **EU-CoE youth partnership**<sup>5</sup>, a joint project of the Council of Europe and the European Commission with the aim to foster social inclusion, democracy and human rights, democratic citizenship and youth participation, intercultural dialogue and diversity.

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<sup>4</sup> <http://www.salto-youth.net/rc/eeca/>

<sup>5</sup> <http://youth-partnership-eu.coe.int/youth-partnership/>