

EU Youth Strategy Seminar
“LinkMeln - Youth Policy & Practice”

10 – 13 December 2013
European Youth Centre Budapest - Hungary -

1. Rationale

Background

Since the **EU Youth Strategy 2010-2018** was adopted by EU Member States in 2009(2009/C 311/01), the three **EU Trio Presidencies** agreed to focus during their 1.5 year periods on youth employment, youth participation and social inclusion respectively out of the eight fields of action of the EU Youth Strategy (See Annex 1).

During these Presidency periods, several joint **recommendations, EU Council conclusions and resolutions**, and **European Commission communications** were adopted focusing on defined topics of the EU Youth Strategy. Besides, several **researches and studies** were carried out to better base youth policy developments on knowledge and evidence. The **EU Youth Report 2012** summarised the results of the first work cycle of the EU Youth Strategy (2010-2012) and proposed priorities for the next three years (http://ec.europa.eu/youth/policy/eu_youth_report_en.htm)

And last but not least, during the past ca. 3 years other EU policy areas relevant for young people and related to the EU Youth Strategy (such as **EU employment and education policies**) contributed with additional recommendations, conclusions and communications.

As a cross-cutting issue large parts of the EU Youth Strategy are dedicated to the role and task of youth work¹. It is clearly stated that “...supporting and developing youth work should be regarded as cross-sectorial...” and the broad understanding of what youth work covers was defined; it goes very much beyond what was before recognised as youth work at European level. As a consequence, in almost all political initiatives developed during EU Presidencies, **youth work is invited to contribute to the demands identified by policy** and within the so-called Structured Dialogue with young people.

Moreover, the new Erasmus+ programme (2014-2020), in particular its Youth chapter, should support the development and implementation of the EU Youth Strategy to a much larger extent than the previous EU youth programmes. The potential of the new programme to finance international projects supporting the implementation of youth policy issues related to the EU Youth Strategy and future EU Presidency youth-related themes might need to be explored as well.

¹ “‘Youth work’ is a broad term covering a broad scope of activities of a social, cultural, educational or political nature by, with and for young people. Increasingly, such activities also include sport and services for young people. Youth work belongs to the area of “out-of-school” education, as well as specific leisure time activities managed by professional or voluntary youth workers and youth leaders Youth work is organised in different ways (by youth led organisations, organisations for youth, informal groups or through youth services and public authorities). It is delivered in different forms and settings (e.g. open-access, group-based, programme-based, outreach and detached) and is given shape at local, regional, national and European level. Youth work focuses on the personal and social development of young people and has an extended reach which accesses and engages young people based on their needs and interests and takes account of their environment. Such coverage and reach complements other policy responses for young people and therefore youth work can offer young people points of contact, association and progression.”

- Council conclusions on the contribution of quality youth work to the development, well-being and social inclusion of young people, 22 April 2013.

Identified needs:

Due to the dynamic developments within the Youth Policy field European NGOs, national youth councils, national umbrella NGOs active in the youth field face the challenge to keep a certain overview of the Youth Policy developments at European level and to follow up the achievements and results within the various initiatives. There are not many peer learning opportunities offered at European level for the previously mentioned actors.

It is not obvious for them to make all relevant links and translate European Youth Policy developments in their reality in terms of advocacy, advising members or network partners and of fostering the participation of young people. There are indeed successful experiences, nevertheless, despite their efforts, it is still a challenge to develop set up structures and long-term strategies to deal with transferring European policies to the national and local level.

2. Aim and thematic focus

The seminar aims to offer a platform which allows keeping track of, reflecting on and strengthening the connection and transfer between EU youth policy developments, other youth-related EU policies as well as research and practice.

The seminar will focus on three fields of action of the EU Youth Strategy: EMPLOYMENT, SOCIAL INCLUSION and PARTICIPATION with a particular attention to young people with fewer opportunities. The role of youth work will be discussed as a cross-cutting issue.

3. Objectives of the seminar

- Support participants to better understand the developments and achievements made within the past 2-3 years in youth-related policy areas.
- To look at the benefits and challenges for youth work and for the various organisations carrying out youth work in a broader sense.
- To reflect on the role and limits that youth work has in supporting the increasing political demands and in responding to the challenges young people are facing.
- To exchange practices on transferring European youth policies to local and organizational level.
- To connect the youth work at European level with other sectors and financial instruments dealing with employment and social inclusion; looking for future possible synergies for example in the frame of Erasmus +.

4. Target group

Ca 30-40 representatives of European NGOs, national umbrella NGOs, national youth councils, National agencies of the YiA programme, national NGOs participating in Structured Dialogue activities on employment, social inclusion and participation...

... active, with a certain experience on linking and transferring European Youth Policy strategy to their work
... and willing to further develop that link and transfer

5. About the organisers

The seminar is organised and hosted by the Hungarian “Youth In Action” National Agency and jointly organised by the SALTO-YOUTH Training and Cooperation and SALTO-YOUTH Participation Resource Centres, and the British, Bulgarian, Czech, Dutch, Finnish, French, German, Polish and Slovak “Youth in Action” National Agencies.

The partnership of the Council of Europe and the European Commission in the field of youth has supported the conceptual development of the seminar and provided support through its networks and knowledge.

6. Programme

10 - 13 December 2013

European Youth Centre, Budapest, Hungary

	10th December Welcome	11th December The frame Employment	12th December Participation Social Inclusion	13th December Results Future of Youth Work	
7:30-9:00	Arrivals	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	
9:00-10:30		- Opening - Seminar Intro - Policy developments	Participation: - Policy brief - Inspiring practice	-Harvesting results - Role of youth work in the future	
10:30-11:00		Break	Break	Break	
11:00-12:30		- Research findings	Participation: - Achievements and challenges	Cont.	
12:30-13:00		Transfer groups	Transfer groups	Evaluation	
13-14:30		Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	
14:30-16:00		Employment (entrepreneurship): - Policy brief - Inspiring practice	Social Inclusion: - Policy brief Inspiring practice	Departures	
16:00-16:30		Break	Break		
16:30-18:00		Employment (entrepreneurship): - Achievements and challenges	Social inclusion: - Achievements and challenges		
18:00-18:30		Transfer groups	Transfer groups		
19:00-20:00		Dinner	Dinner out		Dinner
		Welcome drinks	Optional Xmas Market		Hot or Cold Budapest

For more information, please visit www.linkmein.eu or contact the organizers via linkmein@ncszi.hu

Annex 1: Focus on EU Youth Strategy during EU Trio Presidencies

TRIO 2010-11: Youth Employment

Spain (1st semester 2010)

Youth Employment, social inclusion of young people with fewer opportunities, role of the regions in the youth policy, co-operation with the Latin American countries

Belgium (2nd semester 2010)

Youth work, youth employment, youth mobility

Hungary (1st semester 2011)

Growth and employment for preserving the European social model, stronger Europe, citizen friendly Union, enlargement and neighbourhood policy

TRIO 2011-12: Youth Participation

Poland (2nd semester 2011)

Youth and the world, special focus on cooperation with EECA region

Denmark (1st semester 2012)

Innovation and Creativity

Cyprus (2nd semester 2012)

Youth participation and social inclusion

TRIO 2012-13: Social Inclusion

Ireland (1st semester 2013)

Quality of youth work, employment and employability;

Lithuania (2nd semester 2013)

Skill development, NE ETs, well-being

Greece (1st semester 2014)

Culture & (social) entrepreneurship