

SALTO Training & Cooperation Resource Centre in close cooperation with the European Commission and JUGEND für Europa – the German National Agency of Erasmus+: Youth in Action has the pleasure to invite you to

The quality bonus

the **first ETS Conference** which will focus on sharing, exploring and discussing ideas and strategies for better capacity building and quality development within youth work and through enhanced education and training of youth workers.

The Conference will take place on **26-28 March 2018** in **Mainz/Germany** and might be for you if

- you are involved in youth worker education and training,
- you are interested in contributing to the further development of quality youth work,
- you are interested in education and training strategies and in discussing them in a European – international environment,
- you might have a good example of practice to share connected to education and training of youth workers, and
- ... moreover, you are ready for a new challenge!

The Conference will be an opportunity to enable stakeholders of education & training to further contribute to the development of quality youth work. It will focus on systems and opportunities for youth workers by exploring topics related to the [European Training Strategy \(ETS\)](#), which provides resources for better strategical approaches.

Besides spaces to explore and exchanges on practices and experiences, the Conference will also pay a particular attention to policy-based processes, such as the [Council conclusions on the contribution of quality youth work to the development, well-being and social inclusion of young people \(2013\)](#). The Conclusions are an important groundwork for the development of quality youth work, also from the perspective of education and training of youth workers. In the context of the Conference, the Conclusions will also be taken into consideration to explore links with other initiatives and processes.

When looking at training and education realities for youth work [ers] in the Erasmus+: YiA Programme and neighbouring partner countries, very diverse situations can be found. Because of its focus on quality youth work through capacity building, the related processes it initiated, and the tools it developed, the ETS not only provides spaces, but also resources such

as databases, handbooks, competence models, principles, etc. that support stakeholders in using and adjusting them to their contexts. Moreover, the ETS encourages decision makers, experts and practitioners to cooperate on a broader scale to improve the quality of youth work and its recognition; such an approach to synergies and cooperation will also be sustained during the Conference.

Beyond links and synergies, the Conference will offer space to discuss necessary steps to undertake for better strategical approaches at different levels and in different contexts. More specifically, the Conference will be a collective space intending to:

- Create common (strategic) space for sharing knowledge and experiences of different approaches/practises to address the diversity of youth work from a systemic perspective (incl.– national and international levels);
- Get inspired by good examples of practice in youth workers' education and training using a competence-based approach - in Erasmus+: YiA and in other contexts (national/international);
- Explore the links and the opportunities of the national and European dimensions of competences for youth workers;
- Identify next steps at local, regional, national and European levels in terms of strategical developments.

Expected outcomes

- A better overview and understanding of recent and current European policy-related processes;
- The identification of the elements that contribute to the development of quality youth work in Europe through capacity building;
- A wider promotion of the ETS (focus, content and related initiatives);
- A better overview of competence-based approaches in youth workers education and training in Europe;
- A collection of inspirational projects and processes;
- More [and new] synergies between practitioners, experts, research and educators in the field of youth work (or connected to).
- A support to the identification of the possible next steps of the implementation of the [ETS Competence Model for Youth Workers Working Internationally](#);

Target group and approach

The Conference will bring together approx. 120 participants from different youth work context such as practise, research, policy making coming from more European and neighbouring partner countries. The profile of participants therefore includes National Agencies of Erasmus+ (youth and education and training), universities and vocational schools, policy-makers, expert, practitioners, trainers, and researchers. The Erasmus+: YiA programme countries will have the opportunities to form delegations of max. 4 people.

The Conference will be an interactive and dynamic space, which will include, among other elements, virtual support not only to get prepared but also during the event to exchange and communicate within the group and with the 'outside world'.

Background

The ETS is the strategy that focuses on capacity building for the development of quality youth work. It started in 2000 under the Youth Programme (2000-2006) and continued under Youth in Action (2007-2013) and now Erasmus+: Youth in Action (2014-2020). The implementation of the ETS represents a major step forward in the assurance of quality training and support measures in the Youth field. While with Erasmus+ a new generation of an integrated programme started, quality youth work went higher on the political agenda. This is reflected in the current ETS, particularly when it comes to the support of the development of quality youth work in Europe through capacity building.

2018 will be an important year when it comes to steps towards the next EU Youth Strategy and the new EU [Youth] Programmes. Furthermore, the implementation of the Council of Europe's Recommendation on Youth Work (2017) will start; debates and related policies on validation of non-formal and informal learning will continue; and the finalisation of different researches with regard to youth work education and training is on the agenda.

The deadline to apply is **31 January 2017**. Be aware that you need a MySALTO login to apply online.

The organisers will cover board and lodging. NAs or SALTO RCs will cover the travel costs.

We are looking forward to reading your application!

Please apply here <http://trainings.salto-youth.net/7066>

Yours Sincerely

Rita Bergstein

SALTO T&C RC Project coordinator

JUGEND für Europa