



Aims of the meeting

The Europe-Western Balkan youth meetings aim to initiate reflection and dialogue among youth workers and other stakeholders in the youth field from the WB region and other European countries about the role of European and cross-border cooperation (in particular the European youth programmes Erasmus+: Youth in Action and the European Solidarity Corps) in supporting societal change, further development of youth work and youth policy and European integration.

With a view to the new generation of European youth programmes, this 3rd Europe-WB Youth Meeting offers a space for taking stock of the achievements of EU – WB cooperation of the past years and for joint reflection about what is needed to increase impact and encourage ways forward in the next years.

Reflect with us about the value and potential of cooperation and get inspired by successful practices!

Taking account of the limitations and specificities of the current situation and the online activity format, the meeting aims to offer some inspiring information accompanied by smaller spaces for joint exploration and reflection, including an interactive panel discussion, Q&A sessions and participatory workshops.

Several practitioners from youth work practice, training and research, all with extensive experience in European cooperation, will explore together with the participants the relevance of transnational cooperation for stimulating further development of youth work and youth policy and the added value of linking youth work practice, research and policy. Our experts will also share their thoughts on how their projects have made an impact and what is needed to move ahead.

3rd “Europe-Western Balkans Youth Meeting: EU programmes as vehicles for stimulating positive societal change” online

DRAFT AGENDA

10.00-10.30 Intro to the meeting and who is there

Two inspiring stories/videos

10.30 – 11-30 **Interactive panel discussion:**

Achievements of EU – Western Balkans youth cooperation within the Erasmus+ and EVS/ESC programmes and insights for the future, in view of the new Programmes and the changing situation (also in light of the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on everyday life and on youth specifically)

11.30 – 12.00 Health break

12.00 – 13.00 New EU youth programmes and cooperation in a changing context

Interactive session among participants

- Qs and topics for reflection
- Breakout rooms for Q&A and joint reflection with SALTO SEE, National Agencies, European Commission
- Feedback from breakout rooms

13.00 – 14.00 Lunch break

14.15 - 15.30 **Parallel workshops:**

Achievements and outcomes of inspiring projects supported by Erasmus+ or the ESC that can be useful for future youth work and cooperation using the EU youth programmes (also in view of possible changes brought by COVID-19)

15.30 – 15.40 Health break

15.40 – 16.30 Feedback from workshops
Idea of Inspiring Stories to share
Closure of the meeting

Panel Speakers

- **Sanda Rakocevic**- Executive director, Association for Democratic Prosperity ADP-Zid, Montenegro
- **Marko Kovacic** - National Institute for Social Research, Center for Youth & Gender Studies, Croatia; National Correspondent for Youth Policy (Partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the field of youth); Youth Wiki National Correspondent (European Commission)
- **Markus Rebitschek** - Educational consultant for international youth work, Foundation »European Youth Education and Youth Exchange Center Weimar«, Germany
- One more speaker to be confirmed 😊

Workshops

Participants will be able to sign up for one of 4 workshops before the start of the meeting.

1. **Ana Pecarski**, Member of the Pool of Accreditors of youth work programs, National Association of Youth Work Practitioners (NAPOR), Serbia.

DESCRIPTION: During the workshop, I will present the **policy paper: "Youth work uprising beyond the borders - Serbia and Estonia learning from and with each other"**, one of the main outcomes of a strategic partnership project between NAPOR Serbia and Eesti Noorsootöö Keskus, based on identified common needs for improving the quality of youth work in both countries. The publication demonstrates **the context of youth work, cooperation with institutions in the field of youth, and showcases examples of youth work**. It also explores the challenges faced in each country, from the institutional framework to available methods and tools. The overall idea of this document is to present some conclusions and create space for further discussion.

2. **Marinela Sumanjski**, Training Manager and Project Officer, SEEYN

DESCRIPTION: This workshop will be about **SEEYN's Erasmus+ Journey**. I will present the **milestone results, challenges, lessons learned and examples of good (and not so good) practices** of SEEYN's experience with several long-term Erasmus+ projects. Participants will have chance to see **concrete finalised products of cooperation and experience in youth work in topics of mentorship, digital tools and online learning**.

3. **Dragan Atanasov**, consultant, trainer, evaluator, specialized in youth work, cultural diversity, community development and social inclusion, North Macedonia.

DESCRIPTION: During this workshop we will explore the **potential of establishing cross-sectorial cooperation between youth workers and academic institutions for strengthening the quality of youth work**. The project **"Creating Youth Workers – the formal education edition"** is a KA2 Strategic Partnership project aimed at improving the access of young people to high quality youth work services and contributing towards greater understanding, professionalisation and quality development of youth work in Europe by proposing new approach in developing coherent and flexible competency - based education for youth workers.

4. **Marko Gazivoda**, Educator/trainer at Freelance Consultancy & Training, Cyprus

DESCRIPTION: The workshop will focus on the **use of sport and outdoor activities for the integration of refugees and asylum seekers**. My presentation will explain the **transition from and Erasmus+ project to organisational change**. Together, we will be exploring the case studies of the Erasmus+ project 'The Improvability' and the German social enterprise 'Lucky Punch'.