

SALTO Training & Cooperation Resource Centre and JUGEND für Europa – the German National Agency of Erasmus+: Youth and the European Solidarity Corps have the pleasure to invite you to

The quality bonus

The **second ETS Conference** will focus on the education and training of youth workers at the national levels, and identify how to strengthen spaces for synergies, cooperation, and joint reflection on youth work at the European level, through using the EU Youth programmes.

The Conference will take place on **01-03 March 2022** in **Berlin, 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 the education and training of youth workers,
- you are curious about the new [European Training Strategy \(ETS\)](#)¹ and willing to explore how to support its implementation.

The intentions

- To identify what are accompanying mechanisms for youth workers to implement youth work that is future-fit
- To create space for sharing how learning has evolved in youth work during the last three years (since the first ETS Conference), with a particular focus on education and training.
- To reflect on the competences needed and their meaning for the community of practice.
- To reflect on the interconnections within broader youth worker education and training systems and our role in it?
- To reflect on how the new European Training Strategy can be utilised by those implementing education and training of youth workers.

The theme-tracks

¹ The new version of the ETS is not yet published at the time of this call. It will be ready end of January.

The Conference will be articulated around three themes tracks:

1. **Education and training for 'future-fit' youth workers**

What are the needed competences, and what do they mean for youth work? With that in mind, how do we, as stakeholders, invest in the education and training of youth workers? Which areas do or did we discuss specifically in recent years (since the first ETS Conference)? Which activities do we plan to develop youth work? What new forms of youth worker support are emerging?

2. **Competence-based development approach in education and training**

Getting inspired about the processes of youth workers competence development (e.g. future-oriented). Good practices and challenges/opportunities.

3. **From European to the national level (cases of implementing ETS on the national level)**

- What is ETS offering to develop international youth work and youth worker training? How can education and training of youth workers systems benefit from ETS, and what they can contribute back to ETS?
- How can E+ be used to develop e&t of yw processes nationally?
- Where is the added value/ what kind of training for youth workers is needed on a European/ international level? (what can not be achieved locally)

Target group and approach

The Conference will bring together approx. 120 participants from different youth work contexts such as practice, research, and policy-making. Therefore, the profile of participants includes National Agencies of Erasmus+ (youth and education and training) and the European Solidarity Corps, universities and vocational schools, policy-makers, experts, practitioners, trainers, and researchers. The Erasmus+: Youth and the European Solidarity Corps programme countries will have the opportunities to form delegations of max. 3-4 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'. A parallel, though lighter, online programme will therefore be developed to support those who cannot participate on the spot in Berlin.

Background – the ETS

The motivation behind the revision of the European Training Strategy (ETS), initiated in 2020, is the need to enhance the support of the EU Youth Programmes in specific areas of youth work. This particularity concerns **capacity-building in youth work and the education and training of youth workers**. The ETS aims at contributing to the implementation of the European Youth Work Agenda through the Bonn process, the EU Youth Strategy 2019-2027, and the Council Conclusions on Education and Training of

Youth Workers. Moreover, it intends to offer a framework that is, on the one hand, **at the service of the different initiatives** contributing to youth work development, and on the other hand, **a space to endeavour to bring forward innovative ideas** and projects.

The new ETS needed to **operate an explicit shift** from broader and more conceptual dimensions to more concrete features connected to the education and training of youth workers from a non-formal education perspective. This shift is now translated into **seven ETS Goals**, understood as a blueprint for the education and training of youth workers in Europe, with particular attention to quality, capacity building and recognition. The ETS Goals can also be described as **quintessential step stones** for the ETS to reach its vision and fulfil its purpose. They represent **not only what the ETS endeavours to be but also how it does it**. They identify specific target groups alongside a series of indicators to measure the progress and achievements of the ETS.

The vision of the new ETS

The ETS is a strategic framework for developing quality, innovative and sustainable youth work, **prepared and equipped to sense, acknowledge, address and respond to trends and opportunities for change**. This also includes other dimensions of youth work such as being attractive, needs-based and joyful. While timed, **the ETS looks beyond 2027** and, therefore, **embraces the future generations of youth workers**. It calls for looking at its goals not from the past and for dimensions to change, but from the future and what youth work calls for.

The purpose of the new ETS

The ETS sustains capacity building and educational pathways for youth workers through supporting **competence-based** and coordinated **approaches to the education and training of youth workers**. It, therefore, endeavours to **enhance and strengthen quality youth work** in Europe and beyond.

The ETS pays particular attention to comprehending European and international youth work and their developments as part of youth work and regards this as a guiding principle for its development and implementation. At the same time and as a strategic framework **embedded in the Erasmus+ Youth and the European Solidarity Corps programmes'** priorities and objectives, the ETS supports, develops and links different initiatives in the field of youth work through a strong **connection with and contribution to the European Youth Work Agenda**.

The theory of change of the new ETS

ETS aims at becoming a reference point in youth work development in Europe and at the European level. Its theory of change looks at what the Strategy wants to pursue and how. It considers the ETS from **two different perspectives: as an igniter and as a connector**.

Throughout its development and particularly in its new format, the ETS strengths are its **comprehensiveness and thoughtful connectedness to other processes, strategies, initiatives and large-scale projects** supporting quality youth work development in Europe. While these are also challenges that make some areas of the ETS more complex to monitor, it nonetheless corresponds to a large part of the Strategy dedicated to making

synergies. However, the ETS is also about **initiating and sustaining longer-term processes**. Its ambition is to **create a systemic change and solutions** to visibility, recognition, and development in youth work in Europe through a series of measures. While this calls for the need to define its limits (and where its role as igniter turns into a supporter and connector), it is the perspective where ETS can take a proactive role in conceptualising and defining actions that support capacity-building and quality developments in the youth field.

Deadline to apply

The deadline to apply is **17 January 2022**. Be aware that you need a MySALTO login to apply online. Results of the selection will be communicated at the latest on 30 January 2022.

The organisers will cover board and lodging. Sending NAs or SALTO RCs will cover the travel costs of the participants. Please make sure to read the part dedicated to COVID19-related measures in the call.

We are looking forward to reading your application!

Yours Sincerely

Rita Bergstein – JUGEND für Europa, TCA/NET officer and education manager
Gisele Evrard Markovic - SALTO Training and Coordination, coordinator of the European Training Strategy