

Mandate of the expert group on youth work for young migrants and refugees

Full title	Expert group on 'Defining the specific contribution of youth work as well as non-formal and informal learning to responding to the opportunities and challenges raised by the increasing numbers of young migrants and refugees in the European Union'
Duration of the mandate	September 2017 – December 2018
Coordinating DG & Unit	Directorate General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture (DG EAC), Unit B.3 - Youth, Volunteer Solidarity and Traineeships Office
Chair	The expert group will be responsible for appointing its chair or co-chairs at the first expert group meeting. The election of the chair or co-chairs will be conducted in an open and transparent manner coordinated by the Commission acting as the secretariat of the expert group.

Membership	<p>The participation of Member States in the work of the expert group is voluntary and Member States can join it at any time.</p> <p>Experts will be nominated as members of the group by Member States interested in participating in the work of the expert group. Notwithstanding the right of every Member State to appoint the person of its choice, it is advisable that the experts have a strong connection to the national policy level and administration and ensure effective communication with competent national authorities.</p> <p>The nominated experts are expected to have a broad understanding of migrant/refugee issues and integration policies and to be able to report on their national realities regarding these policies on third country nationals also from the youth policy and non-formal and informal learning angle. As the work of the group is progressing the nominated experts are expected to be able to identify independent experts with practical experience in the field of youth work and integration policies or actions, who could further contribute to the expert group's work.</p> <p>The nominated experts should commit to participate actively in the mutual learning process and have the ability to contribute to the outputs of the expert group.</p> <p>The working language of the expert group will be English. Therefore, a good knowledge of English is essential.</p> <p>The Commission shall coordinate the nomination exercise.</p>
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Background

Youth policy can significantly contribute to the smooth integration of migrants and refugees working in parallel with other sectors such as education, employment and social services.

Although the refugee crisis was unforeseen, the youth sector can claim that it has certain experience in promoting the integration of young people with a migrant background in a European context for instance by funding projects through Erasmus+ and its predecessors (such as the Youth in Action programme) which tackle issues such as mutual understanding, intercultural dialogue, inclusion and equity for minorities.

Moreover, in the youth strand of Erasmus+, the 'Inclusion and Diversity strategy' applies, which outlines the support and possibilities available for inclusion of young people with fewer opportunities throughout the Erasmus+ programme.

On 7 June 2016, the Commission adopted a Communication on the integration of third country nationals. The chapter 'active participation and social inclusion' is dedicated to the role the youth sector can play in the integration process. It stresses that non-formal activities can facilitate the integration process of both the newly arrived third country nationals and the hosting society. This approach is known as the 'two-way process'.

This expert group will be invited to examine the contribution of non-formal and informal learning as well as youth work to integrating young refugees and people with a migrant background taking into account this very approach.

Throughout the years several actions have been undertaken both in various Member States and at European level. To build on knowledge already gained, the work of this group should take into consideration the work of for instance the Pool of European Youth Researchers on the role of youth work to the integration of young migrant and refugees, organised within the partnership between the European Union and the Council of Europe in the youth field.

What is youth work?

The Council Resolution of 27 November 2009 on a renewed framework for European cooperation in the youth field (2010-2018) points out that '**youth work** is a broad term covering a large scope of activities of a social, cultural, educational or political nature both 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 and is based on non-formal learning processes and on voluntary participation.'

The previous expert groups used the following **working definition** of youth work: actions directed towards young people regarding activities where they take part voluntarily, designed for supporting their personal and social development through **non-formal and informal learning**.

Youth work takes place in many different forms and settings. The most common ones are: youth centres, youth projects, outreach/detached youth work, informal youth groups, youth camps/colonies, youth information, youth organisations, youth movements. These different forms of youth work can be carried

out and/or governed by different entities (municipalities, NGOs, etc.) and take place in different localities (youth centres, schools, churches, etc.). These are the most common forms of youth work; due to different terms used in different countries and/or local conditions, there are other (sub-) forms of youth work that still apply to the working definition above.

Youth work understands a young person not as a unit of labour or as a problem to be solved, but rather as a person with talent, skills and abilities some of which have yet to be realised. It engages with young people, builds relations and trust and empowers them to use their strengths and address their weaknesses. Youth work also supports young people to become active citizens and engage in decisions and actions which affect them and their community. As a result it enables young people to better understand the views and concerns of others and those of wider society which in turn contributes to greater harmony and social inclusion. In this context, youth work also has a preventive effect on polarisation and radicalisation potentially resulting in violent behaviour.

Expected outcomes

The expert group will concentrate on delivering a small number of concrete and useable results on the subject requested. The expected outcomes are:

- **Collection of good practice examples** detailing the specific contribution of youth work and non-formal and informal learning to responding to the opportunities and challenges raised by the increasing numbers of young migrants and refugees in the EU. The main focus will be to highlight the role that youth work can play in facilitating the integration process of young people with a migrant background who already reside in Europe or have recently arrived. These good practice examples must highlight how youth work contributes both to empower young people with a migrant background and also to cultivate an inclusive climate in the hosting society. The collected examples should be concrete practices carried out at local, regional or national level; they can be regular activities, capacity-building projects or examples of policy experimentation; they should involve youth work and non-formal and informal learning.
- **Analysis of these examples** to identify critical success factors and key components to achieve the desired impacts and outcomes (what works and what not). Selection of diverse good practice examples to be presented as case studies in the final report (description, analysis, lessons learnt).
- Based on this analysis, **compilation of a practical toolbox** for youth workers and youth organisations, offering useful tips and guidance useable in different Member States.
- **Policy recommendations** as input to possible Council conclusions.

The group will be invited to table suggestions to ensure an optimal **dissemination of the outcomes**.

Indicative roadmap

The number, timing and focus of expert group meetings are **purely indicative** and may be subject to

change.

To communicate and make progress between meetings, the expert group will have the option to use an online collaboration platform (Yammer group restricted to the experts nominated by the Member States and to other participants invited by the expert group).

September 2017 – December 2018

- In preparation of Meeting 1: collection of maximum two good practice examples per expert;
- **Meeting 1** (*September 2017*): introduction; appointment of the chair or co-chairs; preparation of the work schedule; decision to invite other participants; definition of a grid to analyse the collected good practice examples;
- **Meeting 2** (*November 2017*): adoption of the work schedule, finalisation of the grid to analyse the examples; assess the examples with a view to select diverse good practice examples to be presented as case studies in the final report (description, analysis, lessons learnt);
- **Meeting 3** (*January 2018*): identification of critical success factors and key components needed to achieve the desired impacts and outcomes among the target group; start drafting case studies for the final report; start drafting practical toolbox;
- **Meeting 4** (*March 2018*): finalise drafting case studies for the final report; continue drafting practical toolbox; start drawing up policy recommendations;
- The chair or co-chairs of the expert groups will report to the Working Party on Youth on progress made;
- **Meeting 5** (*May 2018*): finalise the practical toolbox and continue drafting policy recommendations
- **Meeting 6** (*September 2018*) : review draft outcomes;
- **Meeting 7** (*November 2018*) : finalise outcomes;
- The chair or co-chairs of the expert groups will report to the Working Party on Youth on outcomes produced in December 2018;
- Publication and dissemination of the final results.

Background documents

Relevant European Union policy documents

Council Resolution on a renewed framework for European cooperation in the youth field (2010-2018),
<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1390996863108&uri=CELEX:32009G1219%2801%29>

EU Work Plan for Youth 2016-2018,
[http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:42015Y1215\(01\)&from=EN](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:42015Y1215(01)&from=EN)

EU Youth Report 2015,
[http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52015XG1215\(01\)&from=EN](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52015XG1215(01)&from=EN)

Council Resolution on encouraging political participation of young people in democratic life in Europe,

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=CELEX:42015Y1215%2802%29>

Council conclusions on reinforcing youth work to ensure cohesive societies, <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1439297359492&uri=CELEX:52015XG0523%2801%29>

Paris Declaration on Promoting citizenship and the common values of freedom, tolerance and non-discrimination through education (17 March 2015), http://ec.europa.eu/education/news/2015/documents/citizenship-education-declaration_en.pdf

European Commission (2016), Action Plan on the integration of third country nationals, COM/2016/377 final, https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/what-we-do/policies/european-agenda-migration/proposal-implementation-package/docs/20160607/communication_action_plan_integration_third-country_nationals_en.pdf

Studies

FRA — European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (2017), Together in the EU, Promoting the participation of migrants and their descendants, <https://bookshop.europa.eu/en/together-in-the-eu-pbTK0716142/>

European Commission (2017), The contribution of youth work to preventing marginalisation and violent radicalisation. A practical toolbox for youth workers & recommendations for policy makers : results of the expert group set up under the European Union Work Plan for Youth for 2016-2018, <https://bookshop.europa.eu/en/the-contribution-of-youth-work-to-preventing-marginalisation-and-violent-radicalisation-pbNC0417064/>

European Commission (2016), Mapping of good practices relating to social inclusion of migrants through sport, <https://bookshop.europa.eu/en/mapping-of-good-practices-relating-to-social-inclusion-of-migrants-through-sport-pbNC0416616/>

Eurofound (2015), Social inclusion of young people, <http://bookshop.europa.eu/en/social-inclusion-of-young-people-pbTJ0215587/>

European Commission (2015), European Youth, Flash Eurobarometer 408, TNS Political & Social, http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/flash/fl_408_en.pdf

European Commission (2015), The contribution of youth work to address the challenges young people are facing, in particular the transition from education to employment. Results of the expert group set up under the European Union Work Plan for Youth for 2014-2015, http://ec.europa.eu/youth/library/reports/contribution-youth-work_en.pdf

European Commission (2015), Quality Youth Work. A common framework for the further development of youth work. Report from the expert group on Youth Work Quality Systems in the EU Member States, http://ec.europa.eu/youth/library/reports/quality-youth-work_en.pdf

European Commission (2014), Working with young people: the value of youth work in the European Union, ICF GHK, <http://bookshop.europa.eu/en/working-with-young-people-pbNC0414172/>

European Commission (2013), Youth participation in democratic life, LSE, <http://bookshop.europa.eu/en/youth-participation-in-democratic-life-pbNC0313225/>

European Commission (2005), Children in Communication about Migration, <https://bookshop.europa.eu/en/children-in-communication-about-migration-pbKINA23113/>

European Commission (2004), Handbook on integration for policy-makers and practitioners, <https://bookshop.europa.eu/en/handbook-on-integration-for-policy-makers-and-practitioners-pbNEX104001/>

Other information

EUISS — European Union Institute for Security Studies (2016), Policy paper: Refugees versus terrorists, <https://bookshop.europa.eu/en/refugees-versus-terrorists-pbQNAL16006/?CatalogCategoryID=0r6ep2OwRCUAAAFQEIBuMWCf>

Partnership between the European Union and the Council of Europe in the youth field (2016), Annual meetings of the Pool of European Youth Researchers and of the European Knowledge Centre on Youth Policy, <http://pjp-eu.coe.int/documents/1017981/9488611/Outcomes+Workshop+-+Young+Migrants+and+Refugees%2C+and+Youth+Work.pptx/2e675006-979d-4d86-83e6-1065d4c6a233>

European Commission (2015), Their future is our future – Youth as actors of change. Research projects on youth inclusion, employment and participation supported by the European Union's Research Framework Programmes, <http://bookshop.europa.eu/en/their-future-is-our-future-pbKINA27205/>

European Youth Forum (2014), Policy paper: Youth work in the European Youth Forum and youth organisations, <http://www.youthforum.org/assets/2014/12/PP-Youth-Work1.pdf>

The 2nd European Youth Work Declaration – making a world of difference, Brussels 27-30 April 2015, <http://eywc2015.eu/the-declaration>