EUROPEAN ACADEMY ON YOUTH WORK - WORKSHOP REPORT

Educational and Career Pathways of Youth Workers
- Ethical Standards in Youth Work.

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INSTITUTION IN CHARGE OF THE PROJECT	Partnership between the Council of Europe and the European Commission in the field of youth, https://pjp-eu.coe.int/en/web/youth-partnership
TOPIC DISCUSSED	1. In support of the implementation of the Youth Work Recommendation CM/Rec (2017)4 and the EU initiatives on promoting quality youth work development, the workshop informed about and facilitated a better understanding of the identified patterns in which the support systems for the development of educational and career pathways of youth workers are organised in Europe.
	2. Key findings of the thematic research on ethical standards in youth work and how they support systems for the development of educational and career pathways of youth workers in Europe were presented and discussed.

METHODOLOGY

The workshop lasted for 60 minutes. It was based on participatory methodology combining a presentation of key research findings, plenary discussion and reflection in small groups.
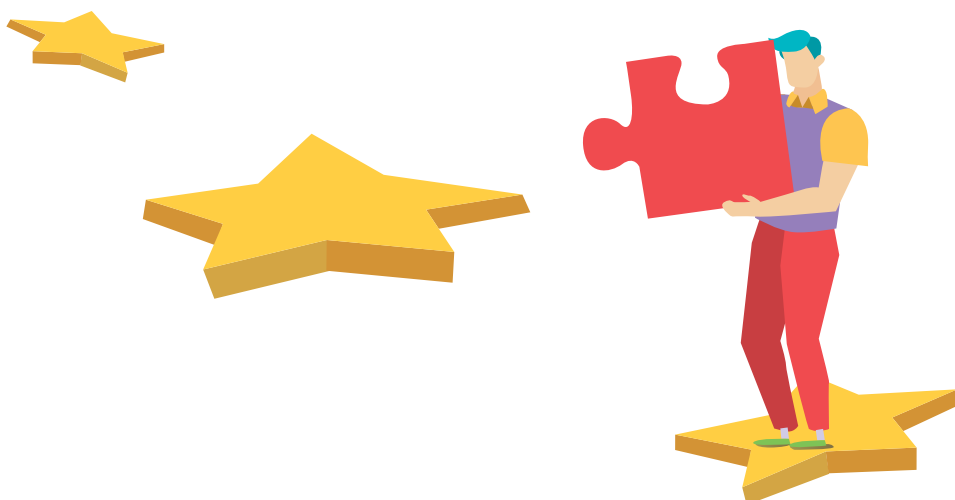
Workshop outline:
- Introduction and background (EU-Council of Europe youth partnership's objectives);

- Presentation of key deliverables of the research on educational and career pathways of youth workers in Europe (2017-2018);

- Presentation of 'Practice architectures for Youth Worker Education in Europe'- as patterns in which the support systems for educational and career pathways of youth workers are organised in Europe;

- Presentation of key challenges identified during the Mapping of educational and career pathways of youth workers;

- Reflection #1: What is the role of innovation in supporting the development of educational and career pathways of youth workers?

- Presentation of ethical standards in youth work- focus on requirements for ethical youth work practice and policy;

- Reflection #2: What is your experience in applying ethical standards in youth work practice and policy and what types of challenges have you encountered?

- General zoom out questions.

KEY ISSUES AND CHALLENGES RAISED

The following challenges identified through the mapping exercise resonated the most with the participants' views:
- Embedding youth work in, and ensuring that it is an integral part of all youth related policies / strategies and their implementation.

- Further developing and strengthening over-arching structures for non-formal education and training that ensure an appropriate level of provision, funding and accreditation and that align methods, themes and competences.

- Strengthening and expanding formal education and vocational training for youth workers, particularly in those Member States where it is under-developed or absent.

- Promoting and supporting innovative and experimental approaches in developing and implementing quality assurance and competency-based frameworks and systems.

Regarding ethical standards, key challenges identified were those linked to: 'Context' (individual ethics vs agency policy); *'Professional development and self-care of youth workers'; and 'Relationship with young people and with other professions'.*

INNOVATIVE RESPONSE(S) TO THOSE CHALLENGES

It was stressed that *'innovation should be contextualised'* and developed in line with specific country circumstances (different practice architectures). Innovative approaches were understood as: *'New ways of addressing challenges of youth work'* but *'not necessarily new activities'.* Innovation is linked with flexibility; alignment with European youth work trends; stability and sustainability; opening of the formal educational systems (universities) to youth workers; recognition of youth work as a profession; impact assessment; strengthening advocacy and sharing good practices and learning.

Participants were interested in learning about the **types of support systems for the development of education and career pathways for youth workers** identified in the research coordinated by the EU-Council of Europe youth partnership (i.e. four types of practice architectures):

Group 1: Strong practice architectures;
Group 2: Strong practice architectures, room for development;
Group 3: Practice architectures where some parts have been developed;
Group 4: Practice architectures in need of development.

However, discussion in small groups revealed differences in understanding and interpreting these support systems in different country contexts. One commonality, however, is reflected in a low level of information among participants about the support systems available in their home countries.

Common views on disproportion between the level of requirements for ethical youth work practice/policy and the support systems available for their development are clearly identified. The conflict between individual and agency policy and the need to raise awareness about ethical standards among various stakeholders are commonly recognised.

FEEDBACK FROM PARTICIPANTS

'Innovation should be defined and discussed in relation with specific contexts due to very different needs for innovation for i.e. municipal / NGO youth workers';

'Innovation should be introduced to address boundaries and relation between youth work and, for example, formal education or social work'.

'Innovation can be understood as development based on a vision but it should depend on the perspective' (i.e. countries in groups 3- 4 need to catch up with the others and build support systems first).

LINKS TO FURTHER RESOURCES OR INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR PROJECT AVAILABLE ONLINE

Information about the project: https://pjp-eu.coe.int/en/web/youth-partnership/expert-group-researching-education-career-paths-youth-workers.

Deliverables of the research on education and career pathways of youth workers in Europe (2017):

- Part I. Report Mapping educational and career paths of youth workers, edited by James O'Donovan: https://pjp-eu.coe.int/documents/1017981/11516594/01-Mapping_for+printing_without+maps.pdf/192e0cd5-5e74-7d38-76cd-2ba3d108bb43.

- Part II. Diversity of practice architectures on educational and career paths of youth workers in Europe, by Tomi Kiilakoski: https://pjp-eu.coe.int/documents/1017981/11516594/02-138018_partII-SCRIB.pdf/c35f1d87-b007-6cdb-24a9-825d6c57605f.

Thematic working papers (2018):

- Views of educators and youth work managers on the **competences of youth workers** by Dunja Potočnik: https://pjp-eu.coe.int/documents/1017981/11516594/05-SCRIB.pdf/5f256f35-2e17-183f-1404-2d10ae9a9ea1.

- Part II. Diversity of practice architectures on educational and career paths of youth workers in Europe, by Tomi Kiilakoski: https://pjp-eu.coe.int/documents/1017981/11516594/02-138018_partII-SCRIB.pdf/c35f1d87-b007-6cdb-24a9-825d6c57605f.

- What do you see? A look at youth work through the prism of **sociology of occupations** by Marti Taru: https://pjp-eu.coe.int/documents/1017981/11516594/04_SCRIB.pdf/7fb04f92-7226-2f3c-ed00-a9b46f43406e.

- **Ethical standards in youth work** and how they support education and career pathways of youth workers by Sladjana Petkovic and Ondřej Bárta: https://pjp-eu.coe.int/documents/1017981/11516594/06_SCRIB.pdf/41cea176-d7fa-3167-a716-11af717b1559.

- Youth workers in Europe. **Associations, networks and support** by James O'Donovan: https://pjp-eu.coe.int/documents/1017981/11516594/03_SCRIB.pdf/56cb372f-fea3-aa9c-5013-faa56aeb4c5c.

- **Early career perspectives** on the educational pathways of youth workers by Tomi Kiilakoski: https://pjp-eu.coe.int/documents/1017981/11516594/07_SCRIB.pdf/3d3973ef-2dc1-e277-82ec-615bf942bbcd.

- Youth workers **learning in non-formal contexts** by Dunja Potočnik: https://pjp-eu.coe.int/documents/1017981/11516594/08-SCRIB.pdf/04539924-1d47-9975-317d-77a7fcc60de5.