



Strasbourg, September 2014

Unfolding youth work

Seminar on the recognition of competences of youth leaders and youth workers: launching the *European youth work Portfolio – a tool for the assessment and development of youth work competence*

19 - 21 November 2014, European Youth Centre Strasbourg

PRESENTATION OF THE SEMINAR AND CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS

Deadline for applying: 19 October

Background to the seminar

The European Portfolio for youth leaders and youth workers is an initiative of the Council of Europe in cooperation with experts and partners such as the European Commission and the European Youth Forum, which aims to contribute to the recognition of youth workers' and youth leaders' experience and skills and also to increase the recognition of youth work and non-formal education and learning.

The Portfolio was developed between 2004 and 2009 and it has since been translated in 7 languages (English, French, Dutch, German, Russian, Latvian and Bulgarian). The Portfolio was developed by a team of experts and tested through a training course in 2006.

The work on the Portfolio has been developed in the political context of the Council of Europe, whose CM Recommendation (2003)⁸ set up the basis for the recognition of non-formal education and learning of young people, and of competences acquired in this framework through the practice of youth work. Currently, the youth policy framework of the youth sector of the Council of Europe, the Agenda 2020, recommends further support to the recognition of youth work. Among other priorities, the Agenda 2020 mentions the need to support the work with multipliers and the development of quality youth work and its recognition.

The work of the Council of Europe in the area of recognition has been often done in co-operation with the European Commission, and through the framework of the Partnership in the field of youth between the two institutions. Several years of co-operation have led to more recent processes, as the Pathways 2.0 and the work of an expert group on recognition of youth work and non-formal education.

Some of the relevant initiatives have been the Symposium on recognition of non-formal education (Council of Europe) in 2000; considering non formal and informal education within the Lifelong Learning programmes (European Commission) (as of 2001); the first edition of the Pathways paper (EU-CoE youth partnership) in 2004; Bridges for Recognition (SALTO Inclusion) in 2004; the Prague conference in the frame of the Czech EU Presidency in 2008; the 1st Youth Work Convention in the frame of the Belgian EU Presidency in 2010; the expert meeting on youth work in Rotterdam 2010; Youth on the Move (European Commission), the EU 2020 strategy (European Commission) in 2009; and the second edition of the Pathways paper in 2011, among others.

The work of the European Commission in this respect is also supportive of creating a framework where the quality of youth work be recognised and valued. For example, the 2010 European Council resolution on youth work demands that the European Commission enhances the quality of youth work, the capacity and competence development of youth workers and youth leaders and the recognition of non-formal learning in youth work. It also invites to develop and support the development of user-friendly European tools (e.g. Youthpass) for independent assessment and self-assessment, as well as instruments for the documentation of competences of youth workers and youth leaders which would help to recognise and evaluate the quality of youth work in Europe. Similar responses and proposals are included in the EU Strategy for Youth – Investing and Empowering.

A recent development in the area of recognition comes from the Symposium for recognition of youth work and non-formal learning, held in November 2011 and organised by the partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe within the youth field, in cooperation with SALTO Training and Cooperation Resource Centre and the German National Agency for Youth in Action. The symposium brought together key actors on the European level and fostered a discussion on the recommendations for action of the *Pathways Paper 2.0*. As a result of the symposium, a Statement was agreed upon and published on behalf of the participants. One of the strands identified is to support the quality development in youth work and non-formal learning.

In the framework of this political will to support the role of youth work and its recognition, the Portfolio has an important place. The Portfolio is a tool developed for intercultural youth work, based on the values and principles of the Council of Europe. It is a tool through which youth workers, volunteers or professionals, can identify, assess and describe their competencies based on European quality standards and to set learning and professional development goals.

In 2013, at the initiative of the statutory bodies of the youth sector of the Council of Europe, a process of revising the Portfolio has been initiated, in order to update it and take into account current processes of recognition. A first revised text of the Portfolio has been prepared in 2014. Two expert meetings and a testing phase with youth workers were organised in order to receive feedback on the Portfolio and in order to take into the landscape of youth work and recognition today as much as possible.

The revised European youth work Portfolio will be ready online in autumn 2014 and its promotion will start with this seminar organised by the Youth Department of the Council of Europe for key partners in the dissemination and promotion of the Portfolio.

The seminar *Unfolding youth work*

The seminar aims to make a contribution to the process of recognition of youth work throughout Europe, by launching the revised European youth work Portfolio and by associating key partners in its dissemination and future use.

The seminar will bring together 30 participants, with profiles ranging from representatives of youth agencies and ministries of the members states of the Council of Europe, youth organisations, youth workers' training services, youth workers and youth leaders.

The seminar objectives are:

- To explore realities of recognition of youth work in the members states of the Council of Europe;
- To explore the role and potential of the European youth work Portfolio in the framework of recognition/validation processes related to youth work and non-formal learning in today's Europe;

- To make proposals about the dissemination and promotion of the Portfolio in the member states of the Council of Europe, in youth organisations and in other services;
- To associate a variety of partners, both from the civil society and from local and national authorities, to the process of dissemination of the Portfolio.

Participants Profile

The seminar will bring together some 30 participants, as follows:

- members of the statutory bodies of the youth sector of the Council of Europe
- representatives of the European Youth Forum and its member organisations
- representatives of the Partnership between the Council of Europe and the European Commission in the field of youth
- representatives of SALTO
- youth work services, at local, regional and national levels in the members states of the Council of Europe
- representatives of youth work training services
- youth workers and youth leaders.

Selection of participants

Interested candidate must apply online on <http://youthapplications.coe.int/> by **19 October 2014**.

For further information, please address Jackie Lubelli, Jackie.lubelli@coe.int

All costs related to accommodation, travel and meals for the seminar will be covered by the Council of Europe.

The composition of the final participants group will be announced on 21 October 2014.

Practical and Financial conditions

Timetable

The seminar will begin at 9:00 on Wednesday 19 November and finish at 16:00 on Friday 21 November. Participants should arrange their travel in order to arrive in Strasbourg on Tuesday 18 November and depart after 16.00 on Friday 21 November or on 22 November.

Venue and accommodation

The seminar will take place at the European Youth Centre Strasbourg. Accommodation and meals will be provided by the Council of Europe.

Travel and subsistence expenses

Travel expenses to and from Strasbourg will be reimbursed according to the rules of the Council of Europe.

Working Languages

The working languages of this seminar will be English.

Further reading

First version of the European Portfolio for youth workers and youth leaders

http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/youth/Resources/Portfolio/Portfolio_en.asp

APPLICATION FORM

INFORMATION ON THE APPLICANT

1. Last name:
2. First name:
3. Sex:
4. Age:
5. Nationality:
6. Country of residence:
7. Working languages (please specify all your working languages)
 - English
 - Other, please specify:

CONTACTS - Please note all correspondence will be sent to this address – please ensure it is complete

8. Postal address (street, number, city, postal code, country):
9. Mobile telephone:
10. E-mail:
11. Do you have any special needs or requirements (e.g. dietary, disability, etc.)?
12. Visas - If you are accepted as a participant on this seminar, will you require assistance in obtaining a visa to come to Strasbourg?
 - Yes
 - No

If yes, please indicate:

- Date of birth:
- Place of birth (country and city):
- Passport No.:
- Date of Issue of passport:
- Date of Expiry of passport:
- Passport issued at (place):

- Citizenship
- Current residence (Country)
- In what country/city you are going to apply for visa

13. I am available to attend the full duration of the seminar

- Yes

- No

INFORMATION ON YOUR ORGANISATION

14. Name of sending institution or organisation

15. Postal address

16. Telephone

17. E-mail:

18. Internet address

19. Please describe briefly your organisation/institution, especially in relation to youth work and recognition of youth work

20. Please describe shortly any experience you have in relation to the topics of the seminar, i.e. youth work, recognition of youth work and tools for recognition of youth work

21. What is your function within your organisation/institution?

MOTIVATION AND EXPECTATIONS

22. Why would you like to participate in the seminar?

23. How do you think you could contribute to the seminar with your experience?

24. What do you expect from this seminar?

25. How can you and youth organisation/institution follow-up the seminar, particularly with the aim of promoting the European youth work Portfolio?