



DDCP-YD/ETD (2016) 43

Budapest, 21 April 2016

Tranzit

Seminar on youth work and youth policy practices in
support of young people's transition to autonomy and
work life

Budapest, 5-7 July 2016

Call for participants

Deadline 17 May 2016

Rationale of the seminar

Taking responsibility for oneself, financial independence, deciding on one's beliefs and values, rights in work, leaving parental home or care system, reaching legal age allowing one to vote, drink and drive, entering parenthood and so on– all part of a multitude of milestones and markers in the transition(s) to adulthood of a young person. They are all presenting a complex picture that needs to be combined with socio-cultural contexts, gender identity and sexual orientation, ethnic background, social economic status and state and local policy, self-perception and expectations in contrast with peer and society expectations and perceptions. Autonomy and agency of the young people are both outcomes of the transition period and important conditions in a successful transition process.

The aim of the youth policy of the Council of Europe is to provide young people with equal opportunities and experiences which enable them to develop the competences to play a full part in all aspects of society.

The Enter! Project on access to social rights for young people, launched in 2009, includes measures for the development of youth work responses to discrimination, exclusion and violence affecting young people and policy measures, adopted now through the Recommendation CM/Rec (2015)3 of the Committee of Ministers (also known as the Enter! recommendation).¹ The Enter! project aims to strengthen the vision of youth work as an important support mechanism for young people to participate and share their future, despite any form of discrimination they may be subject to. The project worked on the social rights of young people, which, in situations of exclusion, discrimination and violence, and particularly in disadvantaged areas, are the first ones to be “sacrificed” in periods of economic crisis. The rights tackled included access to education, housing, health, employment, non-discrimination, leisure and sports, information and counselling, together with cross-cutting matters, as living conditions, social inclusion, participation, active citizenship, non-formal education, gender equality and the prevention of violence. All these aspects are at stake when young people are in the process of transition to autonomy and working life. The Enter! recommendation endorses the development at member state level of sustainable and evidence –based public policies that take into account the specific needs of young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods. The aim of these policies is the eradication and prevention of poverty, discrimination, violence and exclusion faced by young people. Developed together with young people and youth workers, the recommendation identified several thematic areas and guidelines for policies.

In the framework of the Enter! Project of the youth sector in 2016 several activities are implemented to support cooperation between local policy and decision makers and youth workers/youth organisations in implementing the recommendation.

¹ The official text of the recommendation is available here: https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result_details.aspx?ObjectID=09000016805c46f7 and the youth friendly version here: <http://www.coe.int/en/web/enter/policy> .

Complementary to the measures developed in Enter!, the Youth Department also works on how youth policy and youth work can best respond to the current challenges faced by all young people in their transition to autonomy and labour market especially in the context of youth employment crisis and its short term and long term consequences on youth in Europe.

Activities held in the period 2014-5 included a seminar on the challenges and responses of youth work to the youth unemployment crisis, the Symposium Forever Young and study sessions led by partners such as the European Trade Union Confederation, FEANTSA youth and many others. The Symposium highlighted the need to reformulate responses by policy makers in terms of social justice, inter-generational solidarity, participation in decision-making, access and capacity to exercise human rights and with respect to the quality of life and well-being of young people and further recommended recognition and support to youth work interventions at community level.

This work continues through the [Tranzit online platform](#) which gathers youth work and youth policy practices and responses to the challenges faced by young people in their transition to autonomy with a particular focus on the following thematic areas: cross-sectorial cooperation, health, housing, information and counselling, education and work. The platform is designed to support mutual learning, to gather evidence and concrete examples of practices in Europe and to further inform policy measures and concrete projects. When discussing transition to autonomy, the assumption is that good practices of support for young people and spaces for them to share their transition already exist, but sometimes they are not promoted or visible enough to be adapted also in other realities.

The work on access to rights of young people is also part of the recently adopted Council of Europe Action Plan on Building Inclusive Societies (2016-2019)² set to assist member states in managing Europe's diversity through smart policies fostering mutual understanding and respect and calls for urgent action of the member states in the fields of education, anti-discrimination and effective integration.

Aims and objectives of the seminar

The seminar aims to pool good practices in responding to the challenges faced by young people in their transition to autonomy through youth work and youth policy, with a particular focus on measures in the areas of employment, education and training, health care and social security, housing, information and counselling and to make proposals on how the Transit platform, the Enter recommendation and project could further support their work at local and national level.

The seminar objectives are:

² Council of Europe Action Plan on Building Inclusive Societies (2016-2019) adopted by the Committee of Ministers, 15-16 March 2016.

- to share and learn from youth work and policy interventions at local and national level in response to challenges faced by young people in their transition with a particular focus on areas related to access to social rights;
- to reflect upon what makes an intervention a good practice and how to make these practices transferrable or adaptable in other contexts;
- to familiarise participants with the work of the Council of Europe on access to social rights and opportunities offered for supporting youth work and youth policies in this field
- to identify needs at national and regional level that the the Council of Europe should take into account when planning future work on social inclusion and young people's transition to autonomy;
- to propose ways in which the online platform can be further developed.

Programme and methodology

The three day seminar will be built as a mutual learning situation where the experience and participation of all participants will constitute the starting point. The seminar will be preceded by online work on the Tranzit platform allowing participants to get familiar with it and with the work of the Council of Europe.

Participants' profile and selection procedure

The seminar will bring together some 30 participants that are:

- a. representatives of youth organisations, youth workers, social workers, trainers involved in youth work projects and initiatives addressing challenges faced by young people in their transition to autonomy in the areas of access to social rights in general, but also in the specific areas of education and training, employment and financial independence, health, housing, information and counselling.
- b. policy makers and practitioners involved in policies addressing young people in the specific areas targeted by the seminar. A particular attention will be given to those involved at local and regional level.
- c. Representatives of international organisations/institutions active in the field and representatives of the Statutory Bodies of the Council of Europe.

In addition to this, all participants should:

- be resident in a country party to the European Cultural Convention and Kosovo;
- be able to communicate autonomously in English;
- be able to present at least one implemented initiative in the areas of interest of the seminar;
- be motivated to follow-up the seminar especially by contributing to implementation of the Enter! Recommendation and of the recommendations of the seminar at local and regional level;

- be available for the entire duration of the seminar and be able to dedicate some 1h/week for online work in the period 1 June – 1 July 2016.

All interested candidates have to complete the online application form available at <http://youthapplications.coe.int> by 17 May 2016.

The results of selection will be communicated after 25 May 2016.

Practical information and financial conditions

Timetable

The seminar will begin at 09:00 on the 5 July 2016 and finish on the 7 July 2016 at 18.00. Selected participants should arrange their travel in order to arrive at the European Youth Centre Budapest on the 4 July and leave either on 8 July 2016.

Venue and accommodation

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

Travel and subsistence expenses

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

Working language

The working language will be English.

Visas

Visa costs will be reimbursed by the Council of Europe. The Council of Europe secretariat will issue invitation letter that should facilitate the delivery of visas to attend the conference.

Further information

For further information about the seminar, please contact Ruxandra Pandea, educational advisor, anca-ruxandra.pandea@coe.int.