

# INCREASING YOUTH MOBILITY WITHIN EUROPE

## THE PARTIAL AGREEMENT ON YOUTH MOBILITY THROUGH THE YOUTH CARD



partial agreement on  
**youth  
mobility**  
through the  
EUROPEAN YOUTH CARD

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

# INCREASING YOUTH MOBILITY WITHIN EUROPE...

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During the Council of Europe Conference in Lisbon in 1991, the then Secretary-General Catherine Lalumière pioneered a brand new initiative to improve the lives of young people. The Partial Agreement on Youth Mobility through the European Youth Card led the way in promoting increased youth mobility of young people between the East and the West.

*"EYCA is proud to be such a trusted partner of the Council of Europe for 30 years. Together with Member States, our network is offering over 7 million young cardholders quality services through the European Youth Card, supporting sustainable mobility; connection and participation opportunities."*

**Louise Macdonald OBE**

EYCA President

*"The Council of Europe and EYCA have enjoyed a strong co-operation for almost thirty years in the framework of the Partial Agreement on Youth Mobility through the Youth Card. Thanks to this unique partnership, millions of young people are supported to discover, enjoy and learn about Europe, its people, its countries, its culture and its values."*

**Antje Rothemund**

Head of the Youth Department,  
Council of Europe

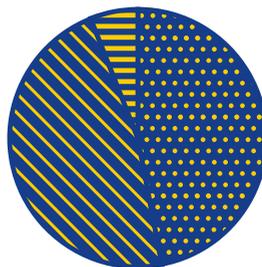
**The overall objective of the Partial Agreement is for member governments and EYCA member organisations to work together to create better mobility solutions for young people. This general objective implies two main aims:**

- ▶ Develop the European Youth Card scheme
- ▶ Development of better youth policies with and for member governments



**The programme of activities is overseen by a Board of Coordination made up of 17 members:**

-  **Eight** representatives of the Partial Agreement member states appointed by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe
-  **Eight** members of the European Youth Card Association appointed by the latter
-  **One** representative appointed by the Advisory Council on Youth without the right to vote



Source and learn more on: [www.coe.int/en/web/youth/youth-mobility](http://www.coe.int/en/web/youth/youth-mobility)

# PARTIAL AGREEMENTS - WHAT ARE THEY?

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A Partial Agreement is a particular form of co-operation within the Council of Europe. It allows member States to join or abstain from a certain activity advocated by other member States. From a statutory point of view, a Partial Agreement remains an activity of the Organisation in the same way as other programme activities. The exception lies in the fact that a Partial Agreement has its own budget and its own working methods which are determined only by the members of the Partial Agreement.



# How Do You Join?

## For member States of the Council of Europe and States Party to the European Cultural Convention:

■ These member States may join the Partial Agreement at any moment by simply making a declaration to this effect to the Secretary General.

■ This consists in sending an official letter or a verbal note from the Minister of Foreign Affairs or from the Permanent Representative of the country to the Council of Europe addressed to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe.

## For States outside the Council of Europe and not party to the European Cultural Convention:

■ On a proposal by the European Youth Card Association and the Board of Co-ordination of the Partial Agreement, the Committee of Ministers may invite any non-member State of the Council of Europe to join the Partial Agreement, following the consultation of any other non-member states already participating.

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### Council of Europe

The Council of Europe is the continent's leading human rights organisation. It comprises 47 member states, including all members of the European Union. All Council of Europe member states have signed up to the European Convention on Human Rights, a treaty designed to protect human rights, democracy and the rule of law. The European Court of Human Rights oversees the implementation of the Convention in the member states.



European  
Youth Card

### EYCA

The European Youth Card Association (EYCA) is a non-governmental, not-for-profit association of 38 member organisations that issue the European Youth Card to over 7 million young people in 36 countries across Europe. Together we work to empower Europe's youth.

# Bringing people together...



**Our series of international seminars were created to support governments in addressing complex youth policies. These important events are organised each year by the Council of Europe's Partial Agreement on Youth Mobility through the Youth Card in co-operation with EYCA, its institutional partner, providing a forum for information exchange, discussion & debate for civil servants and government representatives on a range of subjects that impact the lives of young people throughout Europe.**

■ Such events are of vital importance in providing information to help shape youth policy as well as in sparking inspiration and forming new ideas - with attendees learning more about how the European Youth Card can better benefit young people.

■ Members of the Partial Agreement are provided with priority access to our events each year, and the following pages provide some examples of previous events.

# SEMINAR ON COUNTERING VIOLENT EXTREMISM & RADICALISATION

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**Where: Nicosia, Cyprus**  
**When: 29-31 January 2017**

Short description: In the context of increased radicalised attitudes among young people, the seminar brought together 50 policymakers, EYCA member organisations and other relevant stakeholders to address the current challenges. During a day and a half, guests had the opportunity to explore how the European Youth Card would support and assist governments to promote peaceful communities.

Among speakers, there were University professors, representatives of NGOs, business sector figures and EYCA member organisations.

The event was part of the Cyprus Chairmanship of the Council of Europe. It represented an opportunity to network and exchange experiences among Governmental representatives from different countries, as well as high-level representatives of the Council of Europe and the government of Cyprus.

**Results:** The seminar addressed the challenge of radicalisation, investigating the simplification of the issue within the media where it is associated with violence when often additional factors such as right-wing extremism are also at play. It also shed light on the need to foster cross-sectoral cooperation between various actors in the youth field and focus on prevention.

The European Youth Card infrastructure can provide support with measures preventing radicalisation and violent extremism by playing an active role in the youth social inclusion. With access to 7 million cardholders across Europe and a unique support of governmental agencies, the EYC is an effective tool to implement policies and reach out to the young people at risk of exclusion.

The European Youth Card can be a tool for dialogue among young people themselves, but also between young people and other stakeholders. Young people should be invited/encouraged to get engaged through the card to take part in discussions and youth policy developments ([report of the seminar](#)).

*"We are using the European Youth Card to reach out to young people and invite them for participation opportunities like EU Youth Dialogue, voting in elections or 72 Hours volunteering project.*

*Participation in decision-making processes is at the core of our organisation and the EYC is a strong tool in this regard."*



# SEMINAR ON SOCIAL RIGHTS OF YOUNG PEOPLE

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**Where: Budva, Montenegro**

**When: 22-24 April 2018**

Short description: The seminar aimed to identify possibilities of using the European Youth Card as a tool to reach out to the most vulnerable young persons and to ensure that they have access to information that defends their social rights.

The event brought together high-level representatives at the ministerial level from Montenegro, the Czech Republic and other regional intergovernmental bodies such as the Regional Youth Cooperation Office - RYCO. It provided a space where decision-makers, researchers, youth organisations, youth workers and other stakeholders came together to exchange ideas and best practices on youth social inclusion.

**Results:** The event resulted in concrete recommendations on how to use the European Youth Card as a tool for social inclusion. These recommendations were taken on board by EYCA and its members and improved the services offered to young people, in particular, the youth not in employment, education or training (NEETs).

*"All examples presented were inspiring and could help the participants in understanding the different priorities and needs from each country when it comes to social inclusion of youth"*

**Nelli Gishyan**

Armenia





# SEMINAR ON YOUTH MOBILITY ON THE LABOUR MARKET: BRAIN DRAIN OR BRAIN GAIN

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**Where: Zagreb, Croatia**

**When: 28-30 October 2018**

Short description: The Seminar “Brain Drain or Brain Gain” was organised as part of the programme of the Croatian Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe. It shed light on the innovative, entrepreneurial context of Western Balkans, bringing together policymakers at the highest levels, young innovators, researchers, youth workers and young people.

The European Youth Card programme is, in many countries, an example of social entrepreneurship, bringing together a policy dimension and a strong connection with the business sector. At the same time, having a strong mobility element it addresses various policy areas and offers the opportunity to have a cross-sectoral approach to youth policies.

**Results:** Following the one day and a half event, policymakers and EYC organisations gathered out-of-the-box recommendations on how to mobilise the variety of resources available through the European Youth Card, to create jobs, facilitate entrepreneurship and to retain young talent in their communities. The event also raised important questions about long-term policies to address youth brain drain and the role of the European Youth Card.

*"At an individual level, it creates a sense of belonging, trusted network among the cardholders and use the European Youth Card to link with other sectors and services"*

**Report of the seminar**



# SEMINAR ON YOUTH WORK AND YOUTH POLICIES

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**Where: Helsinki, Finland**

**When: 5-7 May 2019**

Short description: The main objectives of this high-level event in the framework of the Finnish Chairmanship of the Council of Europe were to:

- a) Explore the understanding of "youth work services" and the variety of models across Council of Europe countries;
- b) Promote the importance of youth work in building sustainable communities, based on access to rights and social inclusion of vulnerable young people;
- c) Consider the role of the European Youth Card in implementing specific Council of Europe legislation, in particular the [Recommendation on youth work](#) CM/Rec(2017)4.

The seminar represented an excellent opportunity to learn about the Finnish model of youth work by visiting the Harju Youth House. It also brought in the same space the representatives of two different approaches to youth work: Prof. Howard Williamson from the University of South Wales and Arnaud Raskin from SteetwiZe, working with street-connected children around the world.

**Results:** The event contributed to a better understanding among policymakers and youth workers [on how the European Youth Card can be used](#) to advance youth work services. By bringing together representatives of EYCA members who both implement the EYC and develop policies at national levels, the seminar offered a space for debate, reflection and learning on youth work & youth policies. It also provided guests with a fresh perspective on youth work, new approaches and challenges faced by those in the field.

*"It was very useful, in two days a huge number of presentations on youth knowledge with different perspectives. The variety of speakers from different backgrounds and engagement with youth work made it a great event!"*

**Leyli Tahirova**  
Azerbaijan



# SEMINAR ON DEMOCRATIC PARTICIPATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE

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**Where: Strasbourg, France**  
**When: 17-18 October 2019**

Short description: Organised in times when youth participation is gaining visibility and has worldwide impact, the international seminar aimed at

- ▶ Offering the space for debate on the various forms in which young people make their voices heard, including through digital means;
- ▶ Exploring the ways in which European Youth Card can be a tool to reach out to disengaged young people and encourage them to actively participate at all levels.

The event brought together participants of 27 nationalities, among them: policymakers, EYCA member representatives, youth researchers, youth workers and activists. It presented models of good practices from across the EYCA network: from #GiveAVote campaign to local community actions, trends in youth participation across Europe and the role of media information literacy.

*"The Partial Agreement and EYCA play an important role in fostering stronger and strategic agreements with stakeholders in the field of youth participation".*

## **From the seminar's report**



**Get  
involved**



## The Partial Agreement seminars and events are open to policy makers, youth workers, researchers in the youth field, youth leaders and through the open calls.

■ Applicants from countries members of the Partial Agreement on Youth Mobility usually have priority.

■ Costs associated with participation are covered by the organisers: reimbursement of travel and visa costs\*, provision of travel insurance, full board and lodging during the entire event.

■ The Council of Europe and the European Youth Card Association organise thematic activities at regular intervals several times a year.

■ To follow the open calls for seminars please visit <https://www.coe.int/en/web/youth/home> and [www.eyca.org](http://www.eyca.org)

\*The limit of travel reimbursement is indicated in the open calls

## Contacts for the Partial Agreement on Youth Mobility

**Directorate of Democratic Participation  
Youth Department,  
Youth Policy Division**

**Partial Agreement on Youth Mobility through the Youth Card**

F-67075 Strasbourg Cedex

+33 3 88 41 29 98

+33 3 88 41 52 54

youthmobility@coe.int

<https://www.coe.int/en/web/youth/youth-mobility>



**European Youth Card**

**EYCA:**

Rue D'Alost 7-11,  
Brussels 1000, Belgium

+32 288 06 843

[@EuropeanYouthCardAssociation](#)

[mail@eyca.org](mailto:mail@eyca.org)

[www.eyca.org](http://www.eyca.org)

[www.coe.int](http://www.coe.int)

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