

The partial agreement on youth mobility through the youth card



Youth policy development

Peace
social cohesion
intercultural dialogue
participation
human rights
democratic citizenship
research



COUNCIL OF EUROPE



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WHAT IS A PARTIAL AGREEMENT:

— 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.

THE PARTIAL AGREEMENT ON YOUTH MOBILITY THROUGH THE YOUTH CARD:

— This is an open partial agreement, i.e. states - not members of the Council of Europe or not party to the European Cultural Convention have the right to join it (see more below).

— The Partial Agreement is part of the Youth Department of the Council of Europe and thus follows the priorities and objectives of both the youth sector and the Council of Europe as a whole.

AIMS:

1. Development of the Youth Card scheme

— It was created in 1991 and its Statute states: "The Partial Agreement shall be aimed at developing the Youth Card scheme, particularly at European level in the best interests of young people [...] with a view to facilitating their mobility as well as their access to the various goods and services necessary for their personal and cultural development." **Anyone** under the age of 30 can become a youth card-holder – a young person does not need to be a student or a resident of a European country.

■ Youth cards provide **access of young people** – residents or travelers – to **advice, discounts and benefits** in the fields of **mobility, accommodation, culture, language courses and services** and **products** both on-line (by category, city or country) and off-line. A lot of attention is paid to the quality development and quality measurements of the services provided for a long-term positive impact.

2. Development of better youth policies with and for member governments

■ The second goal is **to cater to the interests and needs of the member governments on youth mobility and youth card issues**. The work programme is devised in such a way as **to generate and mobilise knowledge** on these issues, **share best practices** and thus offer **better policy solutions** (seminars, workshops, symposia, etc.). These activities are followed by Best Practice Publications and recommendations for specific actions to member states and EYCA national member organisations.

■ The work programme is open to participation of states outside the Partial Agreement at their own expense. Participation of representatives of member states is fully covered.

■ A wide range of stakeholders is activated for that purpose: governments, European institutions, business community, experts, academics, youth NGOs, national youth card organisations as well as young card holders themselves. Thus, member states both actively contribute to and benefit from the expertise of the Partial Agreement.

HOW IT'S DONE:

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

- ▶ 8 representatives of the Partial Agreement member states appointed by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe;

- ▶ 8 members of the European Youth Card Association appointed by the latter;
- ▶ 1 representative appointed by the Advisory Council on Youth without the right to vote.

■ The Partial Agreement's work programme is implemented in co-operation with the **European Youth Card Association, EYCA**. It is a non-profit association founded in 1987. It represents over 40 national youth card organisations across Europe with over 5 million cards in use. All EYCA members have committed themselves to promoting individually and collectively **youth mobility, healthy life style** and **active citizenship** among young people.

PROCEDURE FOR JOINING THE PARTIAL AGREEMENT

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.

The Council of Europe

■ The Council of Europe is a political Pan-European organisation set up in 1949 to promote international co-operation, peace, democracy and human rights throughout Europe. It develops common responses to common challenges in all spheres of human life except for the economic and military areas. The Council of Europe counts 47 member states, and 50 states – party to the European Cultural Convention, and embraces 820 million Europeans.

The Council of Europe youth sector

■ The Council of Europe supports the active role of young people in society through various European activities, both by means of intergovernmental co-operation, and training and educational activities for and with youth NGOs and youth leaders. The European Youth Centres in Strasbourg and Budapest, the European Youth Foundation and the Partial Agreement on Youth Mobility through the Youth Card are essential instruments to carry out these activities.

CONTACT IN THE SECRETARIAT OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

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The Council of Europe is the continent's leading human rights organisation. It includes 47 member states, 28 of which are 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.



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