



Mandate of the expert group on youth work for active citizenship, preventing marginalisation and violent radicalisation

Expert group on

'Defining the specific contribution of youth work as well as non-formal and informal learning to fostering active citizenship and participation of young people in diverse and tolerant societies and preventing marginalisation, radicalisation potentially resulting in violent behaviour'

Duration of the mandate: January 2016 – June 2017

Coordinator: Directorate General for Education and Culture – Unit C.1: Youth policy

Chair

The expert group will be responsible for appointing its chair or co-chairs at the first expert group meeting. The election of the chair or co-chairs will be conducted in an open and transparent manner coordinated by the Commission acting as the secretariat of the expert group.

Membership

The participation of Member States in the work of the expert group is voluntary and Member States can join it at any time.

Experts will be nominated as members of the group by Member States interested in participating in the work of the expert group. Notwithstanding the right of every Member State to appoint the person of its choice, it is advisable that the experts have a strong connection to the national policy level and administration and ensure effective communication with competent national authorities.

Member States will ensure that the nominated experts have practical experience at national, regional or local level in the field of youth work and the prevention of marginalisation and radicalisation. The experts should either be involved in concrete practices or in steering policy experimentation addressing these challenges.

The nominated experts should commit to participate actively in the mutual learning process and have the ability to contribute to the outputs of the expert group (for practical reasons, a good knowledge of English is essential).

The Commission shall coordinate the nomination exercise.

Background

The economic crisis has hit young people particularly hard. It has widened the gap between those with more and those with fewer opportunities. Some young people are increasingly excluded from social and civic life. Worse still, some are at risk of disengagement, marginalisation or even violent radicalisation.

In the aftermath of the events in early 2015 (Charlie Hebdo magazine and Copenhagen attacks) the Ministers of Education across Europe declared their commitment to combat youth radicalisation through education and youth policies (Paris Declaration of 17 March 2015). The attacks in Paris, in November 2015, brought the subject once again to the fore, making imperative the need for action.

Preventing marginalisation of young people is directly linked to combating social exclusion and promoting civic participation. A young person living in the margins of the society is prone to radicalisation which could lead to violent extremism. Youth work is an effective contribution to preventing violent radicalisation as it can reach out to young people who are difficult to reach (especially the dropouts from the educational system) and encourage their active citizenship and participation, offline and online.

The new expert group on youth work for active citizenship and the prevention of marginalisation and violent radicalisation will be set up under the priority 'Stronger participation of all young people in democratic and civil life in Europe' of the European Union Work Plan for Youth 2016-2018. It should build on the achievements of the previous Work Plan (2014-2015) and thus take into account the findings and outcomes of the two previous expert groups dealing with youth work (expert group on youth work quality systems, expert group on the contribution of youth work to address the challenges young people are facing – see background documents and below: 'What is youth work?') in line with the Council documents on the framework for European cooperation in the youth field.

Furthermore, the new expert group should seek synergy with the ET 2020 Working Group on Promoting citizenship and the common values of freedom, tolerance and non-discrimination through education (follow-up to the Paris Declaration).

What is youth work?

The Council Resolution of 27 November 2009 on a renewed framework for European cooperation in the youth field (2010-2018) points out that **youth work** is a broad term covering a large scope of activities of a social, cultural, educational or political nature both by, with and for young people. Increasingly, such activities also include sport and services for young people. Youth work belongs to the area of "out-of-school" education, as well as specific leisure time activities managed by professional or voluntary youth

workers and youth leaders and is based on non-formal learning processes and on voluntary participation.'

The two previous expert groups used the following **working definition** of youth work: actions directed towards young people regarding activities where they take part voluntarily, designed for supporting their personal and social development through **non-formal and informal learning**.

Youth work takes place in many different forms and settings. The most common ones are: youth centres, youth projects, outreach/detached youth work, informal youth groups, youth camps/colonies, youth information, youth organisations, youth movements. These different forms of youth work can be carried out and/or governed by different entities (municipalities, NGOs, etc.) and take place in different localities (youth centres, schools, churches, etc.). These are the most common forms of youth work; due to different terms used in different countries and/or local conditions, there are other (sub-) forms of youth work that still apply to the working definition above.

Youth work understands a young person not as a unit of labour or as a problem to be solved, but rather as a person with talent, skills and abilities some of which have yet to be realised. It engages with young people, builds relations and trust and empowers them to use their strengths and address their weaknesses. Youth work also supports young people to become active citizens and engage in decisions and actions which affect them and their community.

As a result it enables young people to better understand the views and concerns of others and those of wider society which in turn contributes to greater harmony and social inclusion. In this context, youth work also has a preventive effect on polarisation and radicalisation potentially resulting in violent behaviour.

Expected outcomes

The expert group will concentrate on delivering a small number of concrete and useable results on the subject requested. The expected outcomes are:

- **Collection of good practice examples** detailing the specific contribution of youth work and non-formal and informal learning to active citizenship and the prevention of marginalisation and violent radicalisation. The main focus will be to highlight the preventive effect of youth work on polarisation and violent radicalisation and to demonstrate the crucial role youth work can play – either as a main actor or in partnership with others. The collected examples should be concrete practices carried out at local, regional or national level; they can be regular activities, capacity-building projects or examples of policy experimentation; they should involve youth work and non-formal and informal learning.
- **Analysis of these examples** with a view to identifying critical success factors and key components to achieve the desired impacts and outcomes (what works and what doesn't). Selection of 5 to 10 diverse good practice examples to be presented as case studies in the final report (description, analysis, lessons learnt).

- Based on this analysis, **compilation of a practical toolbox** offering useful tips and guidance useable in different Member States.
- **Policy recommendations** as input to possible Council conclusions.
- The Group will also be invited to table suggestions in order to ensure an **optimal dissemination of the outcomes**.

Indicative roadmap

The number, timing and focus of expert group meetings is **purely indicative** and may be subject to change.

To communicate and make progress between meetings, the expert group will use an online collaboration platform (Yammer group restricted to the experts nominated by the Member States and to other participants invited by the expert group).

January – June 2016

- **In preparation of Meeting 1:** collection of two good practice examples per expert; identification of possible chairs of the expert group;
- **Meeting 1** (March 2016): introduction; appointment of the chair or co-chairs; preparation of the work schedule; decision to invite other participants; definition of a grid to analyse the collected good practice examples; discuss how to organise synergy with the ET 2020 Working Group on Promoting citizenship and the common values of freedom, tolerance and non-discrimination through education (follow-up to the Paris Declaration).
- Test phase for the grid to analyse the examples;
- **Meeting 2** (May 2016): adoption of the work schedule, finalisation of the grid to analyse the examples; assess the examples with a view to select 5 to 10 diverse good practice examples to be presented as case studies in the final report (description, analysis, lessons learnt);
- **Meeting 3** (end June 2016): identification of critical success factors and key components needed to achieve the desired impacts and outcomes among the target group; start drafting case studies for the final report; start drafting practical toolbox;
- The chair or co-chairs of the expert groups will report to the Working Party on Youth on progress made;

July – December 2016

- Continue drafting case studies for the final report;
- **Meeting 4** (September 2016): finalise drafting case studies for the final report; continue drafting practical toolbox; start drawing up policy recommendations (seeking synergy with the ET 2020 Working Group on Promoting citizenship and the common values of freedom, tolerance and non-discrimination through education (follow-up to the Paris Declaration));

- Continue drafting practical toolbox;
- The chair or co-chairs of the expert groups will report to the Working Party on Youth on progress made;
- **Meeting 5** (October 2016): review draft outcomes;
- **Meeting 6** (early December 2016): finalise outcomes;

January – June 2017

- In view of (possible) Council Conclusions to be adopted in May 2017, the chair or co-chairs of the expert groups will report to the Working Party on Youth on outcomes produced in January or February 2017;
- Publication and dissemination of the final results.

Background documents

Relevant European Union policy documents

- Council Resolution on a renewed framework for European cooperation in the youth field (2010-2018), <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1390996863108&uri=CELEX:32009G1219%2801%29>
- EU Work Plan for Youth 2016-2018, [http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:42015Y1215\(01\)&from=EN](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:42015Y1215(01)&from=EN)
- EU Youth Report 2015, [http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52015XG1215\(01\)&from=EN](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52015XG1215(01)&from=EN)
- Council Resolution on encouraging political participation of young people in democratic life in Europe, <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=CELEX:42015Y1215%2802%29>
- Council conclusions on reinforcing youth work to ensure cohesive societies, <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1439297359492&uri=CELEX:52015XG0523%2801%29>
- Paris Declaration on Promoting citizenship and the common values of freedom, tolerance and non-discrimination through education (17 March 2015), http://ec.europa.eu/education/news/2015/documents/citizenship-education-declaration_en.pdf
- European Commission (2015), The European Agenda on Security, COM/2015/0185 final, <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/en/TXT/?uri=celex:52015DC0185>
- European Parliament resolution of 25 November 2015 on the prevention of radicalisation and recruitment of European citizens by terrorist organisations (2015/2063(INI)), <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+TA+P8-TA-2015-0410+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN>

Studies

- Eurofound (2015), Social inclusion of young people, <http://bookshop.europa.eu/en/social-inclusion-of-young-people-pbTJ0215587/>
- European Commission (2015), European Youth, Flash Eurobarometer 408, TNS Political & Social, http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/flash/fl_408_en.pdf
- European Commission (2015), The contribution of youth work to address the challenges young people are facing, in particular the transition from education to employment. Results of the expert group set up under the European Union Work Plan for Youth for 2014-2015, http://ec.europa.eu/youth/library/reports/contribution-youth-work_en.pdf
- European Commission (2015), Quality Youth Work. A common framework for the further development of youth work. Report from the expert group on Youth Work Quality Systems in the EU Member States, http://ec.europa.eu/youth/library/reports/quality-youth-work_en.pdf
- European Commission (2014), Working with young people: the value of youth work in the European Union, ICF GHK, <http://bookshop.europa.eu/en/working-with-young-people-pbNC0414172/>
- European Commission (2013), Youth participation in democratic life, LSE, <http://bookshop.europa.eu/en/youth-participation-in-democratic-life-pbNC0313225/>

Other information

- Council of Europe, Committee of Ministers, The fight against violent extremism and radicalisation leading to terrorism – Action Plan, CM(2015)74 add final, 19 May 2015, <https://wcd.coe.int/ViewDoc.jsp?Ref=CM%282015%2974&Language=lanEnglish&Ver=addfinal&Site=COE&BackColorInternet=C3C3C3&BackColorIntranet=EDB021&BackColorLogged=F5D383>
- European Commission (2015), Tackling radicalisation through education and youth action – Factsheet, http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/documents/fact-sheet-post-paris_en.pdf
- European Commission (2015), Their future is our future – Youth as actors of change. Research projects on youth inclusion, employment and participation supported by the European Union's Research Framework Programmes, <http://bookshop.europa.eu/en/their-future-is-our-future-pbKINA27205/>
- European Parliamentary Research Service (2015), Briefing: Religious fundamentalism and radicalisation, <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/EPRS/EPRS-briefing-551342-Religious-fundamentalism-and-radicalisation-FINAL.pdf>
- Didier Bigo et al., Preventing and countering youth radicalisation in the EU (European Parliament, Policy Department C -Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs, 2014), http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/etudes/join/2014/509977/IPOL-LIBE_ET%282014%29509977_EN.pdf

- Kurt Edler (2015), Islamismus als pädagogische Herausforderung [Islamism as pedagogical challenge]
- European Youth Forum (2014), Policy paper: Youth work in the European Youth Forum and youth organisations, <http://www.youthforum.org/assets/2014/12/PP-Youth-Work1.pdf>
- Ahmad Mansour (2015), Generation Allah. Warum wir im Kampf gegen religiösen Extremismus umdenken müssen [Generation Allah. Why we need to re-think our approach to fighting religious extremism]
- RAN Collection Preventing radicalisation to terrorism and violent extremism" (2015), Radicalisation Awareness Network, http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/what-we-do/networks/radicalisation_awareness_network/ran-best-practices/docs/ran_collection-approaches_and_practices_en.pdf
- The 2nd European Youth Work Declaration – making a world of difference, Brussels 27-30 April 2015, <http://eywc2015.eu/the-declaration>