



European  
Commission

## Non-formal and informal learning and quality youth work

*Awareness-raising about non-formal and informal learning and quality youth work<sup>1</sup>*

<b>Awareness-raising about non-formal and informal learning and quality youth work</b>	
<b>Belgium</b>	<p>Flemish Community: Top-level authorities' efforts in raising awareness among the public about the value of non-formal and informal learning in youth work are scarce. Since 2001, 'The Day of Youth Movement' has been organised in October. That day, all youth movements come together to ask for attention for their target group, youth, and their organisation, the youth movement. All children and young people who are members of a youth movement go to school in their youth-moving clothes that day. This day is organised by the Flemish youth movements themselves.</p> <p>French Community: There is no public initiative organised to raise awareness on informal learning and youth work. Youth associations benefit from a high degree of autonomy.</p> <p>German-speaking Community: (No information available.)</p>
<b>Czech Republic</b>	<p>In 2017 the National Conference on Youth (<a href="http://www.naerasmusplus.cz/cz/mobilita-osob-mladez/narodni-konference-o-mladezi-2017/">http://www.naerasmusplus.cz/cz/mobilita-osob-mladez/narodni-konference-o-mladezi-2017/</a>) took place, which was on one hand a part of mid-term evaluation of the Youth Strategy 2014-2020 and on the other hand a platform for youth workers, 'who are interested in professional growth as individuals, as well as at the same time in development of activities of organisations, in which they work. Its goal is the deepening of competences in the field of youth work, sharing of experience and networking.' By the state, no further specific initiatives focused on raising awareness about non-formal education and its forms is being realised in the Czech Republic.</p>

<sup>1</sup> Roman alphabetical order of the countries' geographical names in the original language(s).

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<b>Germany</b>	Through its youth strategy ' <i>Handeln für eine jugendgerechte Gesellschaft</i> ' (Action for a youth-oriented society) the Federal Ministry of Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth ( <i>Bundesministerium für Familie, Senioren, Frauen und Jugend, BMFSFJ</i> ) helps to raise awareness of the fact that young people need space to develop and in turn, highlight the value and significance of youth work. The German Federal Youth Council ( <i>Deutscher Bundesjugendring</i> ), the International Youth Service of the Federal Republic of Germany ( <i>Fachstelle für Internationale Jugendarbeit der Bundesrepublik, IJAB</i> ) as well as umbrella youth work associations have a strong influence on the visibility of youth work. There were and are various campaigns to highlight the value of youth work to society.
<b>Estonia</b>	Throughout the years different awareness raising campaigns have been implemented, especially supporting awareness about learning that takes place in youth work setting. As a result the importance of non-formal and informal learning is currently acknowledged in several policy documents such as the Estonian Lifelong Learning Strategy 2020 and the Youth Field Development Plan 2014-2020.
<b>Spain</b>	Promoting non-formal and informal learning and youth work is also one of the tasks of the Spanish Youth Institute INJUVE, which disseminates information and publications on youth work and non-formal learning, such as 'Youth work and non-formal education in the field of European education' ( <a href="#">El trabajador juvenil. El reconocimiento de competencias en el voluntariado</a> ).
<b>France</b>	In order to raise public awareness on youth work and formal and non-formal education, the Ministry responsible for youth affairs has set up a <a href="#">BAFA - BAFD (Brevet d'aptitude aux fonctions de directeur / Certificate of competency in directorial functions)</a> mobile site for tablets and smartphones, on which some 800 000 applicants are listed and 13 million registered. The site is intended for all young people likely to be interested in occasional supervision of holiday and leisure centres during school holidays and out-of-school periods, as well as in a career as a youth worker.
<b>Latvia</b>	In order to facilitate cooperation between the parties involved in the implementation of youth policy and support youth work in local governments, promoting the understanding of work with young people, within the framework of the Latvian Association of Local and Regional Governments, a Youth Support Network of the Latvian Municipalities has been established covering all 119 municipalities in Latvia.
<b>Lithuania</b>	<a href="#">The Manual</a> for non-formal learning opportunities specially targeted at young persons was prepared by the NGO ' <i>Jaunimo epicentras</i> ', while implementing the project 'Formal Meets Non-formal: Cross-sectorial Cooperation in the Educational Field', funded by Erasmus+.

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<b>Luxembourg</b>	Information providers and counselling structures are in charge of raising awareness with regard to non-formal and informal learning and quality youth work. Furthermore, there is some specific information, such as the information booklet 'Non-Formal Education with Children and Young People. Learning in out-of-school settings', published by the Ministry of Family and Integration together with the National Youth Service. This publication contains the definition, concepts, features and fields of action of non-formal education ( <a href="http://www.snj.public.lu/sites/default/files/publications/Depliant_Oktober2013_GB.pdf">http://www.snj.public.lu/sites/default/files/publications/Depliant_Oktober2013_GB.pdf</a> ).
<b>Hungary</b>	The Government calls for attention and planning to work on non-formal and informal learning, support and development of workplace learning in the 'Framework Strategy for Lifelong Learning Policy for the period of 2014-2020' ( <i>kormány 'Az egész életen át tartó tanulás szakpolitikájának <a href="#">keretstratégiája</a> a 2014-2020 közötti időszakra</i> ).
<b>Malta</b>	Target youth workers and youth leaders, <a href="#">Aġenzija Żgħażaġh</a> and <a href="#">EUPA</a> collaborate to organise the National Tool Fair. The aim of the Tool Fair is to promote quality in youth work and support capacity building of youth workers and to raise awareness of best practices of non-formal education and youth work practices.
<b>Netherlands</b>	The National Day of youth work took place on 25 April 2017 ( <a href="#">Dag van het Jongerenwerk</a> ). The event was a work and exchange meeting of, by and for 250 youth workers from all over the Netherlands. Central theme of the day was 'Connecting': the youth worker connecting young people in the neighbourhood; connecting network partners such as the neighbourhood's police officer, social team, school and work; connecting youth workers with each other.
<b>Austria</b>	Year of Youth Work in Austria. 2016 has been the Year of Youth Work in Austria. Within this initiative, a platform ( <a href="https://www.jugendarbeitinoesterreich.at/">https://www.jugendarbeitinoesterreich.at/</a> ) has been established. Various information on extracurricular youth work is provided online.
<b>Slovenia</b>	According to the Action Plan for National Programme for Youth 2013-2022 for 2016-2017 ( <a href="#">Izvedbeni načrt Resolucije o nacionalnem programu za mladino 2013-2022 za leti 2016 in 2017</a> ), the measure named Non-formal Education and Training for Youth also aims to raise awareness, such as promoting the importance of training and acquired knowledge during non-formal education. The Employment Service of Slovenia carries out the measure. The Office for Youth also promotes non-formal learning processes to increase competences among youth transitioning from childhood to adulthood.

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<b>Slovakia</b>	'Declaration of the recognition of non-formal education' (initiative towards employers and formal education representatives on recognising the importance and benefits of youth work to develop competences for the labour market and the overall personal and social life); separate <a href="#">publication on the issue of recognition of non-formal education in youth work</a> . 2017 event: 'Non-formally to the success of young people' ( <i>Neformálne k úspechu mladých ľudí</i> ).
<b>Finland</b>	There are broad options for non-formal learning possibilities, and thanks to their long history and statutory nature they are well-known among citizens. Often, at least in part, modes of non-formal learning are also financed with public funding.
<b>Sweden</b>	Youth work is a municipal responsibility, both when it comes to outreach activities and to youth centres and youth clubs. The work may be carried out and/or governed by different entities, such as municipalities, civil society organisations, faith communities or schools.
<b>United Kingdom</b>	The National Youth Agency (NYA), as well as the Welsh Government, run an annual Youth Work Week, which provides an opportunity for youth organisations, youth workers and young people to celebrate their achievements and the impact of their work. The <a href="#">Awards Network</a> is a forum of providers of non-formal learning awards across Scotland.

Source: Youth Wiki Section 6.9 'Awareness-raising about non-formal and informal learning and quality youth work' (<https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/national-policies/en/content/youthwiki/6-education-and-training-overview>). No information available for Bulgaria, Denmark, Ireland, Greece, Croatia, Italy, Cyprus, Poland, Portugal and Romania.