



YOUTH-PARTNERSHIP  
COUNCIL OF EUROPE & EUROPEAN COMMISSION

European Commission and Council of Europe  
Youth-Partnership

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## Minutes of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Partnership Consultation Meeting Strasbourg, 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2007

### **Participants:**

Council of Europe: Ralf-René Weingaertner (Opening); Rui Gomes (RG); *Excused*: Marcos Andrade

European Commission: Karel Bartak (KB), Artur Payer (AP)

Partnership secretariat: Hanjo Schild (HJS), Florian Cescon (FC), Marta Medlinska (MM), Tania State Masson (TSM), Philipp Boetzelen (PB), Viktoria Karpatska (VK)

European Youth Forum: Klavdija Cerniloga

Joint Council on Youth: Elisa Chiodi; *Excused*: Jan Vanhee

Youth Policy makers: Nico Meisch

Researchers network: *Excused*: Charles Berg

EKCYP-correspondents network: Manfred Zentner

British National Agency for the Youth Programme: Hazel Patterson

SALTO Training: Udo Teichmann (UT),

SALTO EECA: Tomasz Bratek

SALTO EURO-MED: Bernard Abrignani

SALTO SEE: Einar Rafn

**Chair**: Hanjo Schild

### **Agenda:**

1. Opening of the meeting by Ralf-Rene Weingaertner (CoE) and Karel Bartak (EC)
2. Exchange of information about activities of the Partnership in 2006/7
  - 2.1 European Citizenship, Quality and Recognition (F. Cescon)
  - 2.2 Euro-Med, Human Rights and Intercultural Dialogue (R. Gomes)
  - 2.3 Better Understanding, Knowledge of Youth and Youth Policy (M. Medlinska / P. Boetzelen)
  - 2.4 Campaign for Diversity, Human Rights and Participation “All Different – All Equal” (H. Schild)
  - 2.5 Presentation of information & publication activities and the visibility strategy
3. Presentation of priorities for 2008
4. Discussion of priorities and related activities for 2008

## 5. Closing

### 1. Opening of the meeting by Ralf-Rene Weingaertner (CoE) and Karel Bartak (EC)

In his opening RRW gave an update on developments regarding the Youth Directorate. Specifically he referred to the reconstruction of the European Youth Centre which shows the continuing commitment of the Council of Europe to the Youth sector. Coming from the [Symposium on Interreligious /Intercultural dialogue in youth work](#), an activity organised together with the Islamic Youth Forum in the framework of the All different – all equal campaign, he mentioned the link between this event and the increasing CoE engagement in the field of intercultural dialogue. The same would be true for the Euro-African youth summit which could possibly be co-organised by the Directorate of Youth and Sport.

In his opening speech, Karel Bartak gave an overview on the recent developments in youth policy from the perspective of the European Commission (COM): Within the context of the Open Method of Coordination and following the analysis of the member states' replies, a resolution on the topic of Voluntary Activities would be expected of the European Council in November 2007. It would most probably be followed by a Recommendation in 2008. Regarding the topic of Participation and Information, a first meeting on indicators was envisaged and indicators to measure progress in these fields would hopefully be ready in 2009.

Also youth health is becoming more important on the youth policy agenda and has been recently mentioned in a strategy report on youth policy by the Bureau of European Policy Advisers (BEPA) "[Investing in youth: an empowerment strategy](#)". Youth health is developed in cooperation with DG employment. KB mentioned one recent and two forthcoming activities taking place in the context of the anniversary of the Treaty of Rome and the promotion of European youth policies and the Youth in Action programme:

- The 1<sup>st</sup> European youth summit in Rome to mark the anniversary of the Treaty of Rome (24 - 25 March 2007)
- The Youth Event organised under the German EU Council Presidency in Cologne, Germany. (13<sup>th</sup> to 1<sup>st</sup> April)
- The European youth week event in Brussels (3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> of June)

According to KB the Partnership represents an important instrument of both institutions in the field of youth policies. He announced that an evaluation of the Partnership's efforts in the area of better knowledge would take place in 2008.

### 2. Exchange of information about activities of the Partnership in 2006/7

Following an introduction round Hanjo Schild gave a general overview and update of the Partnership:

After having merged the three earlier Covenants (Training, EuroMed, Research) to one single Framework Partnership Agreement, first for a period of 2005/2006 and secondly for 2007 to 2009, the Partnership's activities are based on specific agreements outlining the actions and priorities for a certain period, currently for the year 2007. These actions are implemented under the four core objectives of the

Partnership Agreement, namely (a) citizenship, participation, human rights education, intercultural dialogue, (b) social cohesion, inclusion, equal opportunities, (c) quality, recognition and visibility of youth work and training, (d) youth policy development and better understanding of youth.

In both years, 2006 and 2007 the European Commission's contribution to the Partnership Youth budget covered also some clearly specified activities of the European Youth Campaign "All different – all equal" for Diversity, Human Rights and Participation. Besides EuroMed co-operation an additional regional focus is directed to South-East Europe and Eastern Europe and Caucasus, particularly the Russian Federation. As a horizontal issue information and publication activities were continuously implemented, including the provision of website information.

The budget of the year 2006 amounted to about 1.322 Mio. € and in 2007 to 1.175 Mio. €. These sums include 250.000 € (2006) and 225.000 € (2007) for the "All equal – all different" campaign..

The Partnership employs eight staff members, including part-time staff: the Partnership manager, the educational adviser (90%), the research officer, the knowledge center coordinator, the webmaster & information officer (at present vacant post), the administrative and secretarial assistant (80%), the EuroMed assistant and the financial assistant (50%). Additionally, the EuroMed activities are coordinated by a staff member of the Council of Europe.

With regard to the management, monitoring and steering of the Partnership the 4<sup>th</sup> Management Board was organised in October 2006, bringing together the secretariat and representatives of the two institutions. The Partnership Consultation Meeting and the four Partnership Sectorial Groups "European Citizenship, Quality and Recognition", "EuroMed, Human Rights Education, Intercultural Dialogue", "Better Understanding of Youth & Youth Policy Development" and "Information and Publication" invite the main stakeholders and partners for meetings. All Sectorial Groups convened their second meeting in September 2006. It was decided to abolish the last-mentioned group since its horizontal items are anyway subject of discussion in all thematic groups.

## **2.1 European Citizenship, Quality and Recognition**

FC presented the main Partnership activities in 2006/2007 in the field of European Citizenship, Quality and Recognition.

### European Citizenship:

European Citizenship was the cornerstone of the Partnership training activities over the past few years; it still constitutes a strong priority for the Partnership in 2006/2007.

FC reported that, in 2006, the Partnership implemented six **Training Modules** on European Citizenship, which were co-organised and hosted by six National Agencies. In view of their decentralisation within the network of the National Agencies of the Youth in Action programme, the Partnership decided to transform the existing

Modules into one single Training Course on European Citizenship, which should be carried out several times in 2007/2008 (in different countries and with different participants).

To that end, the Partnership developed a new **curriculum**, which will be implemented in six **Network Training Courses** on European Citizenship (to be organised from October 2007 to February 2008).

\* Training Modules on European Citizenship (2006):

- FC recalled that the Partnership had implemented 6 Training Modules in 2006:
  - Module 1: “Institutions and Politics” (Budapest, Hungary): 29 May – 4 June 2006.
  - Module 2: “Visions and Concepts of Europe” (Bonn, Germany): 27 May – 2 June 2006
  - Module 3: “Citizenship” (Bern, Switzerland): 4 – 10 September 2006
  - Module 4: “Intercultural Learning” (Cardiff, UK): 25 September – 1 October 2006
  - Module 5: “Human Rights” (Eisenborn, Luxembourg): 23—29 October 2006
  - Module 6: “Role of Youth Work in Participation” (Rome, Italy): 23 – 29 October 2006
- Aim and objectives: FC explained that these Modules aimed at encouraging youth workers and youth leaders to integrate elements of European citizenship within their daily projects and practice.
- Number of participants: each Module gathered 25 participants from all over Europe for five full training days (i.e. approximately 700 applications and 150 participants in total).

\* Network Training Courses on European Citizenship (2007):

- FC reported that, given that European Citizenship had become a key priority of the “Youth in Action Programme“ (2007-2013), the NAs had a high interest in the new Network TC EC, hence the important number of Courses organised over the next TCP period.
- From October 2007 to March 2008, a series of six Training Courses on European Citizenship will be implemented by the network of Youth in Action National Agencies, with a support from the Partnership. The training courses were developed in co-operation with the SALTO TC RC.

EC-UK in the United Kingdom  
15-21 October, 2007

EC-TR in Turkey  
29 October-4 November, 2007

EC-DK in Denmark in co-operation with  
Liechtenstein  
12-18 November, 2007

EC-HU in Hungary  
26 November-2 December, 2007

EC-PL in Poland  
28 January-3 February 2008

EC-IT in Italy  
4-10 February 2008

- These Courses will explore the concept of European Citizenship and its concrete significance in youth work, in relation with the Youth in Action programme. The Training Courses will also investigate, among others, the relation between European Citizenship and other important issues such as intercultural learning, human rights or democracy and participation.

- Each Training Course should gather between 25 and 30 European participants.
- Last, FC recalled that these Courses will also feature a very strong regional focus, in accordance with the Partnership priorities. The Partnership will therefore support the participation of youth workers from South East Europe, Eastern Europe and Caucasus in the Courses.

### Quality and Recognition:

FC explained that the promotion of the quality and recognition in youth work and training also constituted a priority for the Partnership training strand.

#### *\* Curriculum development and quality support measures in training.*

- In order to support the quality of the future Training Courses on European Citizenship, the Partnership developed a new curriculum, which will be the same for all the training courses.
- FC provided a short update on the curriculum development process:
  - The last Partnership Management Board (5 October 2006) took the decision to launch a NA network Training Course on European Citizenship and to draft a new curriculum for it.
  - Three educational consultants were then recruited after a call to develop and produce the curriculum itself, with FC's support and under his supervision.
  - Many stakeholders (former trainers of the EC Modules, National Agencies) were also asked to provide some feedback on the future curriculum during the curriculum development process.
- FC also underlined that the curriculum was not a static document. Once officially approved by the PMB, the curriculum will be discussed with, and adapted by the future trainers and hosting National Agencies.
- The Partnership also implemented other quality support measures implemented by the Partnership in training. Two Evaluation Seminars (March 2006 and November 2006), gathering trainers and National Agencies, were organised by the Partnership to review and evaluate the quality of the Training Modules on European Citizenship.
- In May 2007, the Partnership will also organise a common Meeting of trainers and National Agencies on European Citizenship, in order to introduce the new curriculum to the future trainers and hosting NAs, to test it and to address other quality issues.
- Furthermore, the Partnership will also support quality in training through its involvement in a follow-up activity of the European Citizenship Modules. A "European Citizenship Valorisation Seminar" (Luxembourg, November 2007) will indeed gather former participants of the Modules, so that they can share practices and experiences on their European Citizenship projects, review their quality and explore means and ways of valorising them.

#### *\* Development of a Training for Trainers strategy.*

- In 2006, the Partnership implemented a "Training for the YOUTH Trainers on cooperation with EECA Region", in co-operation with the SALTO Eastern Europe and Caucasus RC. This training was constituted of two residential seminars (August 2006, November 2006).
- In 2007, the Partnership will host and organise, in co-operation with the SALTO TC RC, a "Stakeholders Meeting on Training of Trainers" (Budapest, 19/21 June, 2007). The various stakeholders organising trainings of/for trainers at European level (Council of Europe, European Commission, SALTOs, European Youth Forum) will

meet with some experts, researchers and practitioners involved in previous training courses for trainers, in order to:

Better identify the past as well as current offers for trainings for trainers in Europe

Exchange their motivations and strategies to train trainers;

Check the stakeholders' interest in developing a coherent strategy to train trainers at European level.

- Further to this meeting, the Partnership will further develop its strategy in the field.

\* Recognition: promotion and use of YouthPass in all future Partnership training activities.

- Last, FC informed the participants that all future Partnership training activities in 2007 (TC EC, valorisation seminar) would promote and use YouthPass, as a way to increase recognition.

Following this presentation, AP asked why the Training Courses on European Citizenship would start so late in 2007.

FC replied that the current delay in the approval of the Partnership budget did not allow the Partnership secretariat to commit funds for the organisation of these activities earlier in the year. Moreover, as the TC EC is a network Training Course, these dates are primarily determined by the hosting National Agencies themselves. HP added that a lot of preparation events were foreseen to take place before the trainings.

UT thanked the Partnership for the valuable support of the Citizenship courses and confirmed that delay of the contract from COM would hinder the proper organisation of activities. For the time being neither the Partnership nor the National Agencies would dispose of a contract for 2007.

KB said that the delay was due to the fact that we were in the 1<sup>st</sup> period of a new Framework contract. This delay would not occur in the future and the Partnership budget would also be coming earlier.

AP further asked how participants of the Citizenship courses could be linked to other future activities in the field.

BA asked for the strategy behind this approach of associating former participants and wondered how participants from non-EU member countries could also follow-up their participation in the courses. He further asked whether an evaluation regarding the long term effects of these courses was considered.

FC replied that a follow up activity of the Modules (valorisation seminar) would be organised in November 2007, which could also be attended by non EU-participants of the training. Further on he mentioned that the CoE Education Directorate would carry out a course in Education for Democratic Citizenship: SALTO Euro-Med (BA) should check with them regarding the possibility to involve participants from the region.

MM added that the Partnership experience could be used by national agencies for national or European training courses.

RG specified that the CoE Education for Democratic citizenship courses could also take into account the experience of the Partnership. With regard to the citizenship trainings, MN said that he would see the contacts of ancient participants as a useful resource (for national administration).

## **2.2 Euro-Med, Human Rights and Intercultural Dialogue (Rui Gomes)**

In this field of action the Council of Europe is represented through DYS and NSC and activities are carried out in the framework of the partnership agreement with the European Commission. For many activities, the Partnership cooperates with institutions such as Anna-Lindh foundation, Salto-Euro Med and the Euro Med Youth Platform. The activities are associated to the basic pillars *Human rights education, intercultural learning, and youth policy cooperation.*

Following the introduction of the Euro-Med strand, RG gave an update on the recent activities and their follow up:

### *Youth policy cooperation*

Following the international round table “Youth policy and research development in the Euro-Mediterranean cooperation framework” which took place in Cairo on 29 May 2006, a Euro-Med seminar on “the role of youth research in youth policy and youth work development in the broader Euro-med context” was organized 2006 also in Cairo (28-30 November). For October 2007, a Seminar on youth participation is being planned (foreseen Budapest 26-28.10.)

### *Intercultural dialogue*

In the field of Intercultural dialogue a Euro Med Workshop was organized at the University on Youth and Development (Mollina, October 2006). A Training course in human rights education for intercultural dialogue will be organized together with Anna Lindh Foundation (Budapest, 16-22 April).

### *Human rights Education:*

The main activities of this pillar are the *Regional Euro-Maghreb training for young people*, organized in Fés (13.-22.May 2007) and a consultative meeting to evaluate and review the impact of the three regional courses. An evaluation and impact survey might be carried out as a preparation of the meeting.

### *Quality development*

Within this pillar an Evaluation Seminar of the "Training Active Trainers in Euro-Mediterranean youth work" (TATEM) was held in Essaouira, Morocco from 5 to 14 November 2006. RG considered that a deeper evaluation on the TATEM courses might be worthwhile.

He added that the T-Kit on Euro-Med shall be also made available in Arabic.

Following RG's presentation BA stated that the 15 participants from MEDA countries actually taking part in SALTO-courses can be considered as high level experts and valuable resource persons for the dissemination of information and quality assurance. He added that the Euro-med cooperation was presented as a good example in the *Alliance of Civilizations.*

Following a question from HP regarding the overlap of Euro-Med activities and the cooperation with African countries in the youth field, RG explained that a practical cooperation would still need to be developed. The North-South Centre would be an important partner linking both fields of regional cooperation.

KB thanked the Partnership and its partners for their Euro-Med activities and stated that their experience should be used for the preparation of the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue 2008 especially in view of the organisation of an event on Euro-Med in Slovenia and a major youth event during the French presidency of the European Council. He invited the Partnership to further strengthen the complementarity and synergies between European Commission and Partnership activities related to Euro-Med.

BA resumed that the result of the Euro-med activities consisted in the multipliers that had been trained and shortly the Training Kit on Euro-Med. This strand could be seen as a laboratory in terms of intercultural dialogue marked by the presence of politically sensitive issues.

### **2.3 Better Understanding, Knowledge of Youth and Youth Policy**

MM and PB reported on the main activities in 2006/2007 in the field of Better Understanding, Knowledge of Youth and Youth Policy.

#### *\*Research seminars and publications (MM)*

In 2006 two research seminars, on Diversity, Participation and Human Rights and on European Citizenship have been successfully organized. MM mentioned that the concept of research seminars had been slightly changed since she has come into office: number of inputs has been limited and the selection of participants takes into account the need of dialogue between the researchers, policy makers and practitioners. All these three groups are represented in the seminars. The programme of the seminars is shaped to a major extent by the proposed topics resulting from the call for applications.

A research seminar on employment has been planned for May 2007. Regarding seminar publications, she reported that the publication on diversity, participation and human rights is being finalised by the editor and would soon be handed over to the Council of Europe's printing department (SPDP).

PB added that the outstanding publication on Social Inclusion which had been delayed due to overload of the CoE's proofreading service has finally been announced for the end of May.

#### *\*Workshops*

A workshop on voluntary activities for young people with fewer opportunities was carried out in December 2006. A report on this event is being compiled and shall be ready very soon.

#### *\*Youth policy seminars*

At present a seminar on youth policy in SEE is being prepared in cooperation with SALTO SEE, a first preparation meeting has already taken place and the seminar itself is foreseen for mid-June 2007. A similar youth policy seminar, prepared in cooperation with SALTO EECA and focusing on the Eastern Europe and Caucasus Region will take place in October 2007. Another event, focusing on youth issues in

the Russian Federation, mainly on youth policy, will take place in June in Moscow. A European Commissions' representative has been invited to all of them.

\*Researchers network

The 12<sup>th</sup> meeting of the network of experts on youth research and information took place in October 2006. As every year the meeting allowed for presenting institutional updates by the Council of Europe, the European Commission and the Partnership, exchanging information among the experts present, and putting forward proposals for future activities. For the first time, a joint session was organized together with the European Knowledge Centre Correspondents.

MM stated that unfortunately the dissemination of the results of the research activities via the European Knowledge Centre for Youth Policy did suffer due to the lack of a webmaster. This aspect needs to be evaluated and information provision optimised. Also the use of other communication channels need to be revised.

\* European Knowledge Centre for Youth Policy (EKCYC)

PB informed that a comprehensive evaluation of the tool took place in 2006.

In a first step the questionnaires of the key priorities were revised taking into account the recommendations of the Quality Group and the EKCYC-correspondents. In the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the year a proposal for a new layout and structure has been discussed in two strategy group meetings with stakeholders and experts, resulting in comprehensive strategy report. Based on the results of the evaluation a Call for Tender has been launched in February 2007. Following the evaluation of the offers submitted the decision was taken to change the IT-provider of the web portal. Major changes will include:

- The integration of the EKCYC and the other websites of the partnership into one overall partnership portal to enhance it's visibility
- A new design to achieve greater accessibility and become fully compliant with the present standards of accessibility
- Technical modifications to make the tool more user-friendly
- A new structure including thematic entrances to the information provided on the web portal
- Country sheets to give a concise overview on national youth policies.

Mr Bartak underlined the EKCYC's major importance for the European Commission in the framework of the Open Method of Coordination and, more specifically, for the Country desks of the Youth Policies Unit. He emphasised that urgent steps needed to be taken to make the EKCYC a more useful and more easily accessible instrument and to strengthen the network with Information Correspondents.

\*European Knowledge Centre for Youth Policy Correspondents

Jointly with the researcher's network, a first meeting of EKCYC- correspondents took place in September 2006. During the meeting, strategies for networking and the future development of the website were discussed. At present 35 countries have nominated an EKCYC-correspondent.

Following the presentation of the European Knowledge Centre for Youth Policy and related activities, MZ commented, that whereas in the beginning the EKCYP was mainly targeting youth policy makers, for him it was more relevant to link the three pillars of the triangle of youth researchers, policy makers and practitioners and to provide information on their work. He added that an overall research mechanism was very much needed to find available information.

NM emphasized said that in his view the success of the EKCYP should not be judged after only two years time as it was the first attempt to bundle knowledge on youth policy on a European scale. It therefore represented a valuable experience for similar projects on the national level.

#### **2.4 Campaign for Diversity, Human Rights and Participation “All different – all equal”**

Hanjo Schild gave a short update on the activities in the framework of the campaign.

The following activities were planned to take place in 2007:

- Symposium “Intercultural and Interreligious dialogue” (27-31 March 2007 in Turkey)
- Symposium “Participation and active citizenship” (25-29 April 2007 in Schengen, Luxemburg)
- Training of Trainers active in the campaign (May 2007 in Budapest)
- Conference on Immigration and Xenophobia (June 2007 in Italy)
- Closing event of the campaign (September 2007 in Sweden)

#### **2.5 Presentation of information & publication activities and the visibility strategy**

HS presented the information and publication activities of the Partnership in general terms. He informed that as decided by the last Partnership Management Board, the PSG on Information and Publication had been abandoned. Being a horizontal issue, the publication and information strategy should from now on be discussed within the different other PSG’s. Regarding publications HS informed that:

- Coyote #12 on the Campaign was about to be published
- following last years decision by the PMB, the preparation for a T-Kit (number 12) on conflict transformation has been pursued; at that stage editors/authors were being selected from among the candidates who answered the call.

With regard to translations and dissemination of publications TSM added that except for French and German, translations are generally pursued directly by the National Agencies. A pdf document containing the translated version is then made available for free on the Partnership website. The T-kits in English and French as well as Coyote magazine can be ordered by E-mail in paper version.

A comprehensive mailing list is prepared in order to guarantee that all partners and stakeholders receive the new publications as soon as they are printed.

RG reiterated the necessity of putting aside resources for a minimum update and quality control of all translations. MM mentioned the guidelines resulting from a revision of Polish translations of 2 T-Kits as helpful in ensuring quality without requiring an additional proof reading. The guidelines are annexed with a glossary of terms used in the youth work field, possibly to be used coherently in all translations into a given language (e.g. a whole series of T-Kits).

In the subsequent discussion regarding the updating of T-kits the following remarks were made:

- The T-kit on Project management should be extended by a chapter on quality management (BA)
- It would be useful to have a priority list regarding the T-Kits that need to be revised (AP)
- Stakeholders of the Partnership should be involved in the revision process (HJS, UT, HP)
- It is advisable to also consult the users of the T-Kits in this process (RG, UT) in a structured way, e.g. within a study (FC).

### **3. Priorities 2008**

HJS stated that the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Partnership next year would be a good opportunity to look back at the history of the Partnership and take scope of its achievements. It needs to be considered in planning future activities.

RG, HP and AP proposed that a major anniversary event related to the year of intercultural dialogue could be organized. Following a comment by MZ who stated a lack of vision regarding youth policy, RG proposed to use the year 2008 for stocktaking and to organise a strategic seminar on youth policy.

KB said that the 2008 should be used for preparing 2009 as a stocktaking year. He also emphasized that the revised version of the European Knowledge Centre for youth Policy should be available in 2008.

EC stated that the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the partnership would be a good opportunity to increase participation of youth organisations in the decision making procedures.

### **4. Closing**

HJS resumed that the visibility of the Partnership has improved even if there was still space for improvement. Therefore it would be desirable to review the publication tools at the occasion of the stocktaking exercise to come. Following the wish stated by several participants, the Partnership should also take into account the global dimension of youth co-operation.



**Council of Europe & European Commission  
Partnership on Youth**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Partnership Consultation Meeting**  
European Youth Centre, Strasbourg  
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