

# Newsletter

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COUNCIL OF EUROPE  
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE



European Commission

## Partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the field of youth

### Management Board meeting of the partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the field of youth

*In the last ten years, [the Council of Europe](#) and the [European Commission](#) have developed a close cooperation in the youth field. The partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the field of youth indeed provides an added value to the programmes of the two institutions and their institutional partners.*

*The European Commission and the Council of Europe, within the framework of their partnership in the field of youth, set up a Management Board bringing together representatives of both institutions and members of the joint secretariat. The Management Board contributes to the coordination of the different thematic areas and decides on the annual work programme and priorities. It meets twice a year. The first meeting in 2009 was held on 2 July in Brussels., co-chaired by Mr. Pierre Mairesse (European Commission) and Mr. Ralf-René Weingärtner (Council of Europe).*

#### **The role of the partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the field of youth**

The role of the partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the field of youth is to contribute to the synergies

of the two institutions' further development of youth policy and activities, as laid down, on the side of the Council of Europe, in the Declaration of Ministers responsible for Youth, followed by a Resolution of the Committee of Ministers, on "The future of the Council of Europe youth policy: Agenda 2020" and, on the side of the European Commission, in the Communication "An EU strategy for Youth: Investing and Empowering. A renewed open method of coordination to address youth challenges and opportunities".

Both institutions as well as external partners acknowledge that the Partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the field of youth has made substantial progress in ensuring the quality, efficiency and visibility of its activities since the merge of the Partnership's three strands — training, Euro-med cooperation and research in 2005.

#### **The European Knowledge Centre for Youth Policy (EKCYP)**

The EKCYP is of very high priority for the two partners which is expressed in the above mentioned political documents and their annexes. The development of EKCYP has made substantial progress in the past, particularly during the last few months. Both partners expect further effort with regard to:

- the completion and updating of data related to Member States profiles and the Member States' information on priority youth policy areas. More incentives may be needed to make sure that the national correspondents to the EKCYP can provide proper and up-to-date data and information. In addition, setting up research triangles/research boards of youth researchers, youth organisations and youth policy makers should be envisaged in each country following good examples in countries such as Finland, Luxembourg, Belgium or the Netherlands.
- availability of comparable cross-country information (e.g. on young people's participation in elections, the number of volunteers per country, number of local youth councils). The secretariat of the partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the field of youth, will submit a proposal to both institutions for approval.

initiative of the European Commission, the Council of Europe and the European Youth Forum - involves about 30 trainers, each of them implementing an own training project in the context of TALE. The secretariat of the partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe will submit a proposal to the two institutions on how the multiplier effect and transferability of the skills, competences and training formats of the TALE training can best be ensured.

### **South East Europe (SEE), Eastern Europe and Caucasus (EECA) and Euro-Mediterranean regions, Euro-African co-operation**

The regional activities of the partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the field of youth remain a priority for both partners, for the European Commission mainly under its European Neighbourhood Policy and the priority field "youth in the world" of its new EU Youth Strategy, for the Council of Europe within its intergovernmental Member States policy and the priority Intercultural Dialogue.

The planning of further activities will follow a more strategic approach. Both institutions will identify a limited number of key events with specific visibility and clout.

### **Network of researchers**

Both the European Commission and the Council of Europe underlined that the annual researchers' meetings need to be closely linked to the two institutions' policy developments and their respective agenda. The role of the European Commission's youth report was underlined in this context. The next researcher network meeting in October 2009 will discuss current youth trends.

### **Management Structure and Meetings**

The European Commission and the Council of Europe agreed to drop the "Partnership Consultation meeting" since it tends duplicating the Sectorial Group meetings. Instead, as from 2010, one single "Advisory group" will bring together the different stakeholders. The European Youth Forum and the Advisory Council of the Council of Europe's youth sector could be given a more active role within the partnership structures.

### **Training of youth workers**

Within the framework of the partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the field of youth, stakeholders in activities related to the training of youth workers intensified their cooperation.

The European Citizenship Training courses are being fully decentralised to the European Union's "Youth in Action" National Agencies both regarding selection and funding of third country participants.

The Training for Active Learning in Europe (TALE) first residential seminar was held in May 2009. The course - based on a common

### **Administration**

The current Framework Agreement 2007-2009 will be extended until mid 2010 to make sure that no gap between the Framework Contract 2007 - 2009 and the new Framework Contract as from 2010 occurs. The content of the new Framework Partnership Agreement and the Specific Agreement 2010 will be discussed in the Management Board meeting in October.