

Update on the European Knowledge Centre for Youth Policy (EKCYC)

At occasion of the 3rd anniversary of the EKCYC following its launch (at the Luxembourg conference on a better understanding of Youth in June 2005), this Newsletter aims at giving an update on the recent developments and achievements of the EKCYC on its way to becoming the central place for the exchange of information and dialogue across the youth field in Europe.



The EKCYC correspondents during their last meeting in February

New website

Since the beginning of this year the EKCYC is imbedded in a new [Partnership-webportal](#) where it is displayed among the other fields of activities of the Partnership. It reflects our vision of this tool as a platform for exchange between researchers, policy makers and practitioners. The new EKCYC features a revised structure concentrating on the essentials and interlinking the different tools for knowledge provision. The main standard web pages of the Partnership-webportal will soon also be available in French and German.

Find and exchange information

• *Country Information and EKCYC correspondents network*

The [country information](#) on national youth policies provided by the [national correspondents](#) to the European Knowledge Centre remains the **singular information source** of the EKCYC. It has been extended by [Country sheets](#) on national youth policy which give a succinct overview of the organisation of youth policy in the participating member states. Additionally the revised questionnaires on the priority topics of the White Paper (Information, Participation, Better Knowledge and Voluntary Activities) continue to provide national information gathered by many of the -at date 35- national correspon-

dents. The country sheet and questionnaires are available in downloadable PDF-versions.

During the last meeting of the EKCYC-correspondents support measures for their work have been reviewed and a further extension of the country information section by new topics has been discussed (see below). However, the complete provision of country information depends to a great extent on the political will and effective support of the national EKCYC-correspondents by their own countries.

• *Soon available : fact sheets on transversal topics*

Following the European Youth Pact and the momentum gained by the topics employment, health and well-being, social inclusion and lifestyles, the EKCYC will provide country-specific information sheets on these topics in the section Country Information. A first set of information sheets on the member states of the European Union is currently developed by an external contractor, Turku University of Applied Sciences. The final version will be delivered to the Partnership by end of October this year and should go online at the end of November. In the future, the EKCYC-correspondents are expected to update the information provided herein when necessary.

• **User-generated information tools**

Conceived as a platform for exchange between users, many features not only offer information but also aim to involve the registered users of EKCYP as potential providers of knowledge.

The [EKCYP online library](#) offers a wide range of key policy documents and research papers relevant to youth. At date there are 630 documents available here. Registered users are invited to contribute to its development by uploading relevant documents on youth policy, youth training and youth research. These documents can be uploaded in any language.

The [Expert Database](#) gives the opportunity to interested users to present themselves and their works through the creation of an expert portfolio. A list of all registered experts is available there.

The Good Practice section presents good practice examples related to the priority topics of the EC White Paper on youth [33 examples of good practice available].

Users are invited to submit their own [example of good practices](#)

The [News section](#) displays upcoming events, new publications and other youth related news organised by the Partnership and any interested user [about 2 news per week]. The news are distributed through E-mail to all registered users who selected this option.

Users contributions to these features are going



through a validation process to ensure their relevance for researchers, policy makers and practitioners.

• **Reference tools**

Exchange and mutual understanding between the different actors working with/for young people requires a common basis of understanding. The [glossary](#) and the [youth policy chapters](#) aim

to fulfil this basic need and guide the users with regard to relevant concepts of European youth work and the essential developments in the main fields of European youth policy. Currently the background knowledge texts are being updated and a new chapter on [Health](#) has been published

• **Overall research engine**

Since the redevelopment of the web-portal the information provided on the website can be retrieved through an overall search machine. When using the advanced search option, users may restrict their search to one of the above-mentioned sections of the EKCYP- from the expert database to the documents of the virtual library and from the good practices section to the country information section.

Quality assessment

The EKCYP-quality group, composed by researchers, policy makers and institutional representatives, had been created to accompany the quality development of this tool. It meets once a year to monitor quality of data and propose further improvements. The revised version of the EKCYP goes back to the recommendations of the first quality group meeting (2005). During the last quality group meeting the new structure of EKCYP was presented and the extension of the topics covered was discussed.

Cooperation activities

In a world where nearly any organisation has its own website, cooperation is essential in order to achieve complementarity between the information made available on line and hence, to ease the location of information on the net.

Therefore the EKCYP and the partnership web-portal are conceived as a platform for exchange of information where cooperation partners in the fields of training and research are provided a space for presentation and discussion. This cooperation is currently under way with the [Masters initiative on European Youth Studies](#) and in preparation for the International Network of Youth Research (INJR).

Further cooperation with actors in and beyond Europe is foreseen.

Leaflet

A new leaflet on the EKCYP is being published and will be available in English, French and German.

For more information please contact :
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