

**Research-based  
analysis of European  
youth programmes**

# YOUTH WORK RECOVERY CONFERENCE

## FINAL CONCEPT NOTE

SHORT // 15 MARCH 2022



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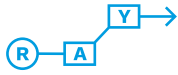


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# 1.CONTEXT AND RATIONALE

The world is going through unprecedented times: the coronavirus pandemic has taken people, governments, societies initially by surprise – and youth work was no exception. Some of the immediate consequences of the pandemic, and the policy responses to the pandemic, have intermittently gained some visibility in the youth field in Europe. In the meantime, the discussion has begun to shift to the mid- and long-term impact, and crucially to the underlying systemic challenges for youth work that are being exposed and amplified through the pandemic.

In recognition of these extraordinary circumstances, the Network of National Agencies for the European youth programmes and their research partners decided to convene a Youth Work Recovery Conference in 2022, exploring how the existing and emerging challenges of the youth field in Europe can be addressed through existing instruments such as the European Youth Work Agenda or the European Year of Youth, and developing recommendations on how to improve and strengthen the recovery efforts for youth work across Europe. Furthermore, a follow-up, such as dissemination activities on European and national level, is complementing the process.

The Youth Work Recovery Conference is co-organised by the National Agencies for the European youth programmes in Croatia, Finland, France, Germany, Portugal and Slovenia together with the RAY Network Coordination. Cooperation with additional partner institutions, networks and organisation is most welcome.

## 2.AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

### 2.1. OVERALL AIM OF THE CONFERENCE

The aim of the *Youth Work Recovery Conference* is to bring together policy, practice and research, to discuss the evidence on support needs and support offers for youth work in Europe during the coronavirus pandemic and crisis, and to formulate clear recommendations on how to best support the post-pandemic recovery and development of youth work across Europe.

### 2.2. KEY OBJECTIVES OF THE CONFERENCE

The key objectives of the *Youth Work Recovery Conference* are to

- discuss the effects of the coronavirus pandemic and crisis on the field of youth work across Europe and its respective actors in policy, practice and research
- explore the evidence on the needs for support of youth work in Europe, on the one hand, and the available support options for youth work in Europe, on the other hand
- identify gaps in existing support measures and identify specific and concrete support mechanisms needed for youth work in Europe in addition to existing ones
- discuss the role of the European youth programmes, including through long-term strategic activities, in strengthening post-pandemic support of youth work
- formulate clear recommendations for action for relevant actors to improve, strengthen and widen post-pandemic support and development of youth work across Europe



## 2.3. PARTICIPANTS OF THE CONFERENCE

The *Youth Work Recovery Conference* seeks to involve and invite

- Youth work organisations, networks, platforms and institutions from policy, practise and research from across Europe, as well as youth work experts.
- National Agencies of the European youth programmes and their research partners
- The following key stakeholders of youth work, youth policy and youth research across Europe:
  - Institutional stakeholders at European level (e.g. European Commission and Council of Europe as well as their institutional EU-CoE youth partnership)
  - Institutional stakeholders at national level (e.g. representatives of National Ministries responsible for youth and National Working Groups for the EU Youth Dialogue)
  - Institutional stakeholders at regional and local level (e.g. representatives of regional bodies and local authorities)
  - Institutional stakeholders across policy levels responsible for recovery programmes (e.g. representatives of recovery coordination structures)
  - Civil society stakeholders at European level (e.g. European Youth Forum and Advisory Council on Youth)
  - Civil society stakeholders at national level (e.g. representatives of National Youth Councils and NGOs dealing with youth topics)
  - Research stakeholders across levels (e.g. university departments, research groups, think tanks, experts focusing on youth research and related subjects, pool of researchers)

Conference participants should be working on designing and developing or are already involved in implementation of recovery programmes for youth work in a capacity that allows them to contribute to the conference meaningfully, whether that be from the perspective of policy, practice, programming and/or research.

## 3. ORGANISATIONAL FRAMEWORK

### 3.1. DATE AND TIME

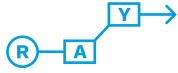
The *Youth Work Recovery Conference* will take place from 13-16 June 2022. The conference will last approximately two and a half days, with an arrival and start in the late afternoon on 13 June and an end on 15 June in the evening (departure on 16).

### 3.2. PLACE AND LOCATION

The *Youth Work Recovery Conference* will take place in Helsinki, Finland.

### 3.3. HOSTING AGENCIES & PREPARATORY TEAM

The *Youth Work Recovery Conference* is co-hosted by the National Agencies of the European youth programmes from Finland (host), Croatia, Germany, France, Portugal and Slovenia (co-hosts) as well as co-financed by Movetia (Swiss agency for exchange and mobility). The RAY Network Coordination (at the Finnish National Agency) will lead and coordinate the preparation process and the implementation of the conference in cooperation with the RAY transnational research team.



### 3.4. FACILITATION TEAM

The facilitation team, consisting of three facilitators with different roles and backgrounds, is engaged in the process of preparing the conference as well as implementing it on the spot.

## 4. FOLLOW-UP

- A key feature of the follow-up to the conference will be parallel (policy) activities - policy events, social media coverage, panel discussions etc - where the recommendations for the recovery of youth work are disseminated and e.g. conference participants brief policy makers at European, national and regional level. All activities will happen on the same day to maximise attention, coverage and impact (date and process coordinated by preparation team).
- National delegations and European stakeholders are encouraged to reflect on individual dissemination plans before and during the conference and develop strategic approaches and concrete activities within their contexts.