



# 3<sup>rd</sup> European Youth Work Convention

7–10 December 2020  
The digital Convention,  
broadcasted from Bonn

## Report



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# Foreword

At the 2<sup>nd</sup> European Youth Work Convention in 2015 in Belgium, Germany took over the baton to host the 3<sup>rd</sup> Convention in 2020. The focus of this 3<sup>rd</sup> Convention was on the development of the European Youth Work Agenda and the initiation of its implementation process by the entire youth work community of practice.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Convention in December 2020 was held at a very special time:

Due to the overlap of the German EU Council Presidency and the German Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, a special feature of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Convention was the unique chance of launching a framework and process and giving impulses for the further development of youth work in both European institutions in a sustainable way across Europe. The European Youth Work Agenda and its implementation process thus have a huge potential to become an effective, pan-European process and to have an impact throughout Europe.

In addition, the coronavirus pandemic meant that the planning for the Convention had to be completely changed: The event, which was originally planned as a large residential event in Bonn, was transformed into a digital event. This made it the largest online event ever held in the field of youth work in Europe and special in the series of conventions. The digital Convention guaranteed equal participation from all EU and Council of Europe member States. It offered the benefit of even wider outreach to achieve the necessary effect in communicating the Agenda for its successful and sustainable implementation in the Bonn Process. Innovative and creative formats of virtual exchange and working together provided the opportunity to show youth work as the brave, outside the box thinking, and modern field that it is.

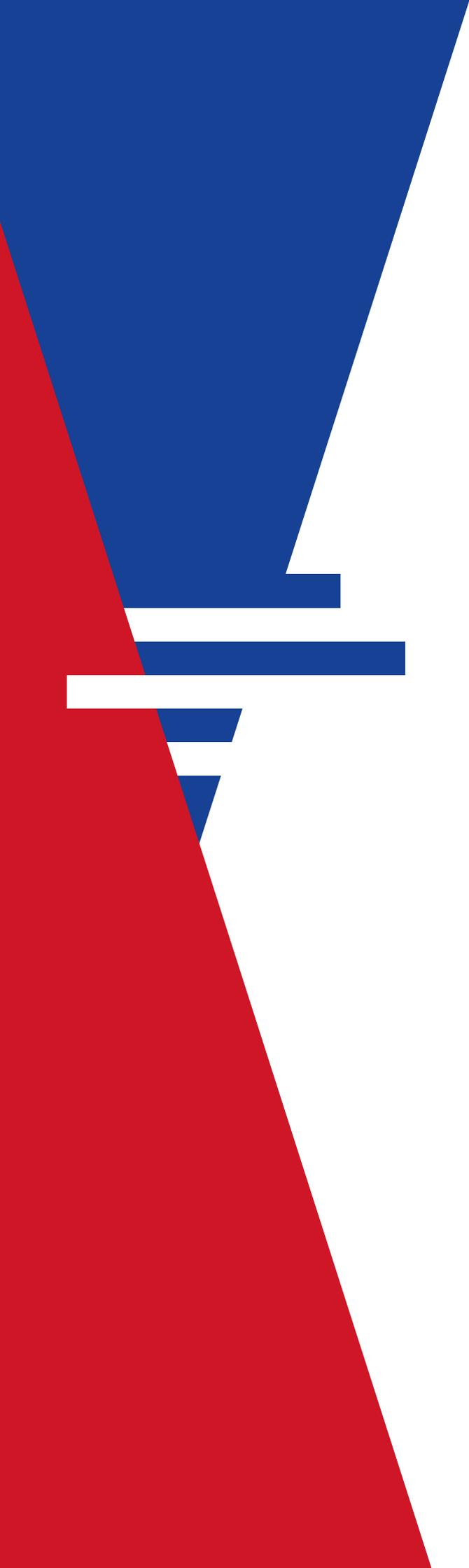
The implementation process of the Agenda, the Bonn Process, was successfully launched at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Convention. This was possible thanks to the many supporters of the project on the way to the Convention: the European Steering Group, which accompanied the project from the beginning, the drafting group, which wrote the final Declaration during the Convention, contributing experts, facilitators and rapporteurs, researchers, and many other European stakeholders, who lead to the creation of the new strategic framework for the strengthening and further development of youth work in Europe.

It was a pleasure to welcome representatives of the whole youth work community of practice from 50 countries to the digital Convention. Now it is up to all of us to take up the planning for the Bonn Process that was started at the Convention and put it into action.

*The hosts of the 3<sup>rd</sup> European Youth Work Convention*

*The German Federal Ministry for Family Affairs,  
Senior Citizens, Women and Youth*

*JUGEND für Europa – German National Agency  
for the EU programmes Erasmus+ Youth in Action  
and European Solidarity Corps*



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# Introduction

The European Youth Work Convention (EYWC / Convention) is the central platform for discussing the latest developments in youth work practice and youth policy in Europe. The series of Conventions aims at:

- Linking youth work practice and youth policy;
- Working together to further develop youth work practice;
- Enhancing the visibility of youth work and its value;
- Facilitating discussions on specific topics;
- Acquiring new insights and transferring knowledge;
- Promoting common ground and joint action within the youth work community of practice<sup>1</sup>.

On this occasion, the third such Convention, which happened digitally from the 7<sup>th</sup> to the 10<sup>th</sup> of December 2020, had a specific aim, which was: to kick off the implementation of the European Youth Work Agenda (EYWA / Agenda) in the Bonn Process.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> EYWC was hosted by the German Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth. JUGEND für Europa, the National Agency for the EU programmes Erasmus+ Youth in Action and European Solidarity Corps, was its partner in organising and developing the content of the event.

The EYWC was being held under the rare convergence of Germany's Presidency of the European Union and its Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe.

This EYWC was designed to be the kick-off for the establishment of the European Youth Work Agenda: the strategic framework for further developing and strengthening youth work practice and policies in Europe. To do this, the EYWC

- Looked at the current challenges and needs of youth work in Europe;
- Discussed the framework conditions of quality youth work in Europe;
- Provided information about the European Youth Work Agenda;
- Shaped the content of the European Youth Work Agenda;

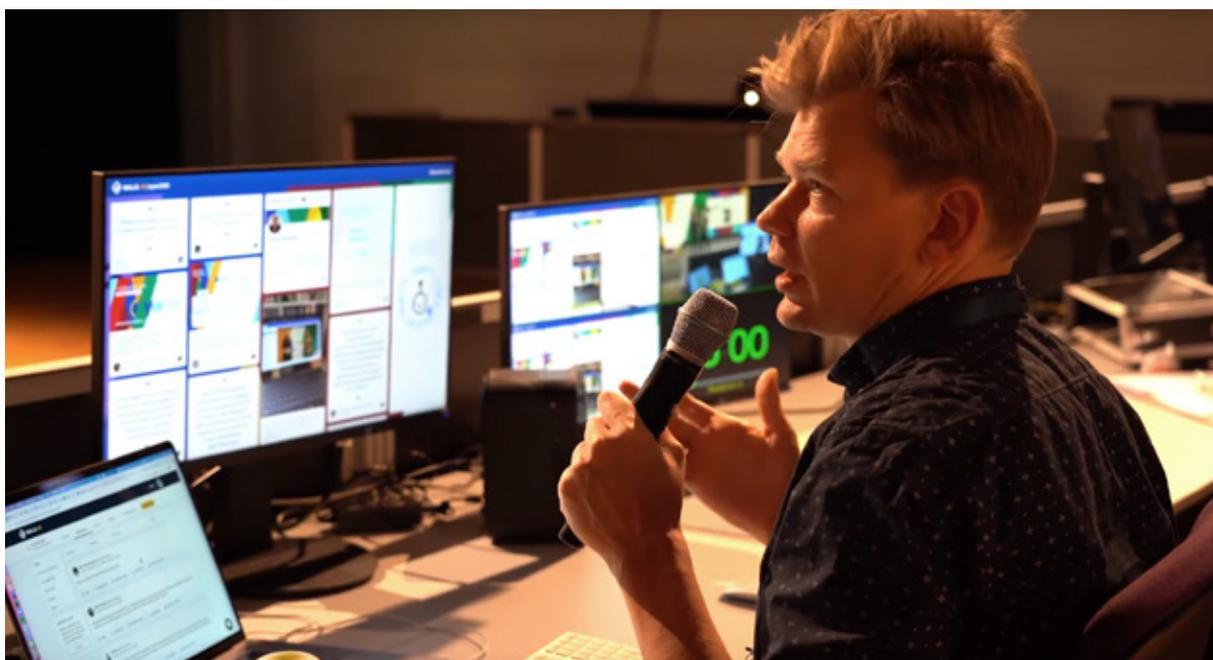
- Developed recommendations for the implementation of the European Youth Work Agenda;
- Created ideas for activities within the implementation of the European Youth Work Agenda;
- Launched national processes and measures;
- Enabled and exploited synergies between all stakeholders and levels involved;
- Created commitment, ownership and co-operation.

## Facts, figures and faces

The EYWC lasted for four days with roughly 1,000 participants registered from over 50 countries – representing the member States of both the European Union and the Council of Europe. There were around 100 contributors, speakers and experts, who all provided inputs. The organisers, facilitators and participants developed over 300 sessions on the digital platform, including 127 workshops. The technical team linked up 290 live video calls over the four days and the live streaming they provided attracted 1,229 views on the opening day and 870 views for the Grand Finale plenary on the last afternoon.

<sup>1</sup> The 'youth work community of practice' includes and is not limited to: youth workers and youth leaders; youth work managers; project carriers; accredited and independent youth work organisations; trainers; researchers; educators of youth workers; local communities and municipalities; National Agencies for Erasmus+ Youth and the European Solidarity Corps; youth representations; young people; and policy-makers at all levels of governance.





The two moderators of the EYWC were Jennifer Sieglar and Tim Schreder, two television personalities from Germany. Their moderation was supplemented by Laimonas Ragauskas for all the digital information that the participants would need for their digital participation. The hosting took place at the World Conference Centre in Bonn, where a large team was working behind the scenes for the filming, recording, digital logistics, co-ordinating and the organising of the Convention over its four days.

The EYWC was being attended by a wide range of youth workers, youth leaders, youth work managers, trainers, researchers, educators and trainers of youth workers, youth council representatives, national and international youth organisation representatives, decision-makers, political representatives and other stakeholders.

### **Planning Phase in Uncertain Times: The Emergence of the Digital Convention**

The planning of the 3<sup>rd</sup> EYWC was started in 2018, the vision being to hold it at the World Conference Centre in Bonn with approximately 600 participants.

In the spring of 2020, doubts emerged about such a possibility with the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic worldwide. In early autumn, it was fully realised that there would be no physical meetings for the remainder

of 2020 and that the Convention would have to be done online. This decision changed the planning and preparation profoundly, because the overall setting, programme and processes, and communication had to be conceptualised and implemented differently while keeping on striving for a Convention offering as much participatory opportunities and youth work spirit as possible.

In the end, holding the 3<sup>rd</sup> EYWC in the digital space made it the largest online event ever held in the field of youth work in Europe and special in the series of Conventions. Under the changed circumstances due to developments around the COVID-19 pandemic, the digital EYWC guaranteed equal participation from all EU and Council of Europe member States. It offered the benefit of an even wider outreach in the communication of the EYWA and its successful and sustainable implementation in the Bonn Process. Innovative and creative formats of virtual exchange and working together provided the opportunity to show youth work at its best: innovative, with outside the box thinking, and modern.

A European Steering Group acted as an advisory board and accompanied the whole planning phase and the development of the Convention. The group consisted of experts from the fields of youth work and youth policy. The group first met in October 2019 and then at various key stages right up to the implementation of the 3<sup>rd</sup> EYWC. It was this group of people who guided and supported the development of the 3<sup>rd</sup> EYWC.

A drafting group was set up to create the final Declaration of the 3<sup>rd</sup> EYWC based on the inputs of the participants during the Convention, taking the material produced from the different workshops.

## Preparation Phase

### Preparation Activities and Selection Process

Participants in the 3<sup>rd</sup> EYWC were nominated at national level. The respective ministry responsible for youth and, where it exists, the National Agency for the EU programmes Erasmus+ Youth in Action and European Solidarity Corps, selected a delegation of people representing the youth work community of practice in the respective country. Special attention was paid to their role as multipliers regarding the implementation of the European Youth Work Agenda (EYWA) beyond the end of the Convention in the Bonn Process and to their personal motivation.

To prepare the delegations for their participation in the Convention, activities to be carried out in each country were recommended. Responsibility for this lay with the respective national ministry (and the respective National Agency, where applicable). The preparation activities were supposed to provide an opportunity for the delegation members to get to know each other and exchange on the topics of the Convention as well as on content-related materials, in many cases the delegation co-ordinators held preparatory meetings for their participants. The project team provided additional content-related materials regarding the preparation process. In the evaluation survey, a large percentage of the participants rated the preparatory materials as highly useful and helpful. The resources are all still available on the [EYWC website](#).

Four analytical papers were published in 2020 to bring further insights into youth work and the community of practice leading up to the Convention.

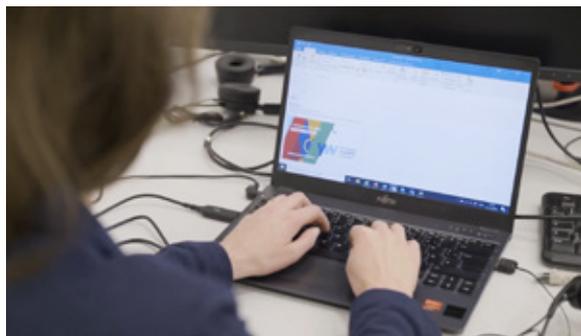
The German Youth Institute produced a research paper, [The European Discussion on Youth Work 2015–2020](#). This document provides an overview and analysis of the discussions on youth work taking place in papers, policies, reports, and research published between 2015 and 2020.

Prof. Howard Williamson wrote the paper [Cornerstone Challenges for European Youth Work and Youth Work in Europe – Making the Connections and Bridging the Gaps](#). The paper was written to identify and capture the key challenges that continue to face youth work in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. It was also specifically written as a preparatory document for the planning of the 3<sup>rd</sup> European Youth Work Convention and implementation of the European Youth Work Agenda.

Nik Paddison and JUGEND für Europa co-wrote the paper [Ongoing Developments within the Youth Work Community of Practice](#). This paper explores the ongoing developments that have been taking place in youth work between 2015 and 2020. It seeks to highlight what it is that keeps youth work strong and what keeps it as an evolving practice of development.

Andreas Karsten wrote the resource paper [Learning from the Impact of the Coronavirus Pandemic on Youth Work in Europe](#). The paper illustrates the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on youth work in Europe and explores what can be learnt from its effects on youth work. The paper also contextualises the COVID-19 pandemic in terms of the Convention itself and the role of the European Youth Work Agenda in supporting youth work during and beyond the COVID-19 pandemic.

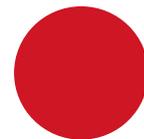
The Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth and JUGEND für Europa produced a resource paper [Growing Youth Work across Europe: Inspirational Paper for Making the European Youth Work Agenda Happen](#). This resource built on the analytical papers and was produced to inform the participants in advance of the content for the different elements of the European Youth Work Agenda, the programme of the 3<sup>rd</sup> European Youth Work Convention, its final Declaration, and the potential national and European processes within the Bonn Process.





**Please note:**

This report is not an analysis of the Convention or its outcomes, nor does it draw any conclusions from the Convention. This report is a documentary record of what happened on each of the four programme days of the Convention.





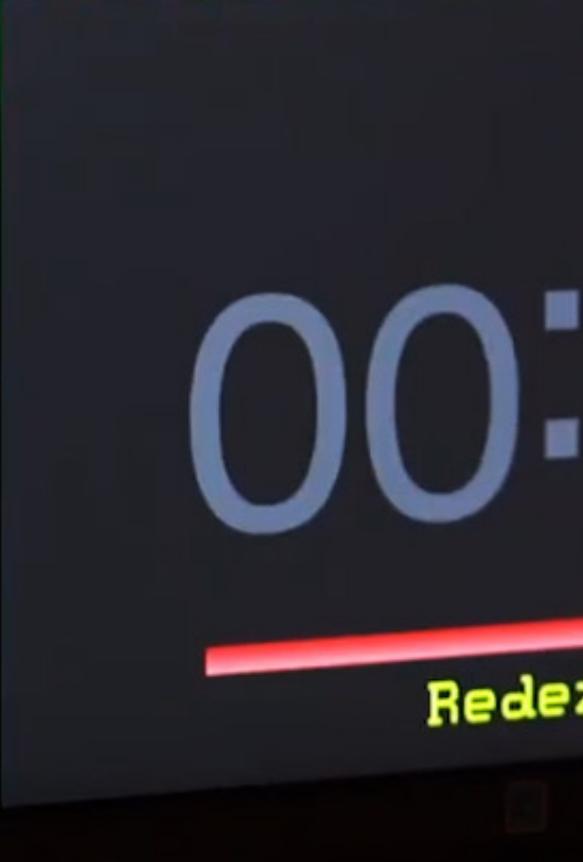
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# Core Elements of the Convention

## Programme Overview

The first day of the Convention followed the idea of introducing the overall context of the Convention and Agenda with the programme taking place mainly in the plenary. The following two days offered space for discussions and common work in a number of different workshop settings. The second day was dedicated to debating and shaping the content of the European Youth Work Agenda through its eight thematic strands. The workshops on the third day focused on specific related topics, which were discussed in depth. On the fourth and final day, the participants met again in delegations to pave the way and plan how they wanted to continue their joint work and implement the EYWA in the Bonn Process after the Convention. The last day ended with the presentation of the written outcome of the Convention – the final Declaration –, which was followed by a round of reactions, and commitments from various stakeholders from the whole youth work community of practice.

## Shaping the European Youth Work Agenda Together

### The Final Declaration as the Central Outcome of the Convention

With the clear aim to kick off the implementation of a strong European Youth Work Agenda in the Bonn Process, the Convention aimed at producing inspiration and guidance on how the Bonn Process could become real. The programme with its huge amount of plenary sessions, workshops and rich opportunities for lively discussions and active contributions by all participants, lead to the creation of the one central written outcome of the event: the final Declaration.

During the programme, one full day was dedicated to the common development of the content for the final Declaration: On Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup> December, participants made use of the opportunity to discuss and shape

the content of the EYWA in 62 workshops. The discussions were based on the eight thematic strands of the EYWA and additionally inspired by a set of proposals for concrete fields of action, offered through the [resource paper](#): 'Growing Youth Work across Europe: Inspirational Paper for Making the European Youth Work Agenda Happen' by the hosts of the 3<sup>rd</sup> European Youth Work Convention (Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth and JUGEND für Europa).

In the workshops, the participants formulated recommendations, which were reported via a team of rapporteurs to the drafting group, which was responsible for the writing of the Declaration.

A first set of workshops in the morning of Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup> December, were designed to be the main opportunity for the participants of the EYWC to inform, direct, and to offer feedback to the drafting group on the thematic strands and accompanying fields of action. It was this material that formed the basis of the final Declaration.

Where each of the morning workshops had focused on one of the eight thematic strands, the Tuesday afternoon gathered the participants into stakeholder workshops. These were also designed for the purpose of shaping the EYWA, but with the expectation that now the feedback being given was from the perspective of the specific stakeholder position. Due to the number of rapporteurs and their comprehensive recording of all the workshops, the drafting group was able to take into account all of the feedback from all of the participants, although not every position could ultimately be represented in the final Declaration.

In addition to the Tuesday programme, which had the primary focus on the joint content of the Declaration, the Wednesday congress and open workshops were designed to provide the participants with further exploration of the thematic strands.

## The Declaration

The Declaration itself addresses the European youth work community of practice as the main stakeholder in the Bonn Process. It calls for common actions from local to national to European levels within the Bonn Process. It provides guidance for the youth work community of practice on how to engage with the Bonn Process to define actions to support the needs and aims of different youth work contexts further.

## The Drafting Group

The drafting group consisted of eight experts from a variety of different backgrounds within the youth work community of practice, as well as being gender, age and geographically balanced. Their backgrounds ranged from local youth work practice and young people's representation over European institutions and youth research to youth policy development. It was important that they reflected as much as possible the broadness of the youth work community of practice and it was emphasised that they were not representing their respective institutions, organisations or personal agendas. Their role was to take the material produced from the different workshops and create the final Declaration based on the inputs of the participants. The European Steering Group had pushed for this Declaration to be from the participants of the EYWC and not a politically motivated, pre-composed document based on the aims of the EYWC.

Different members of the drafting group provided an input through the Convention News to maintain transparency of the process and keep the participants updated. They explained the aim of the Declaration and its importance. They shared that this was a co-creating process with the participants and that all the contributions and ideas coming from the participants, as reported on by the rapporteurs through every workshop, needed to be concise and clear. The group also emphasised that “every report was read by two people. We want to make sure we're not biased”, “your ideas matter” and “we are your servants”.

The drafting group received and read over 100 reports in the two days of the EYWC concerned with the workshops. From this, they produced a final 19 page Declaration, consisting of the core messages of the EYWC representing the actual views, needs and recommenda-

tions for future action of the participants and therefore the youth work community of practice at large.

## The Delegations

The meetings of the national delegations were a core element of the EYWC. Forty-six European countries took part with complete delegations, complemented by a small number of single representatives from countries neighbouring Europe and worldwide.

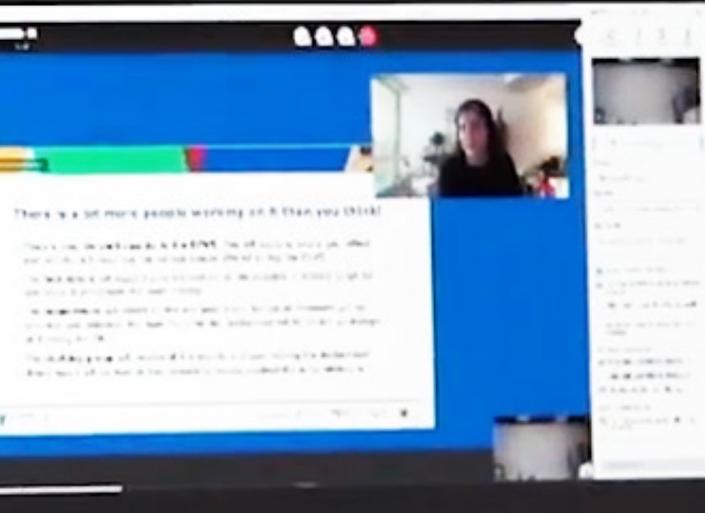
Delegations had been nominated at national level by the respective ministry responsible for youth and, where it exists, the National Agency for the EU programmes Erasmus+ Youth in Action and European Solidarity Corps based on their role as multipliers regarding the implementation of the European Youth Work Agenda (EYWA) beyond the end of the Convention in the Bonn Process and on their personal motivation. To prepare the delegations for their participation in the Convention, activities had been carried out in each country, organised by the respective national ministry (and the respective National Agency, where applicable). Thanks to the delegations, a great diversity of perspectives from the full scope of European countries formed the heart of the discussions. It is their role to act as multipliers for the Bonn Process in their national contexts. In addition to the national delegations, there were four European delegations for stakeholders active mainly at the European level:

- European institutions;
- National Agencies and SALTO Resource Centres;
- European umbrella organisations;
- Youth work practice organisations and networks linked at the European level.

During the EYWC, the delegations were scheduled to meet on three occasions. On the final day most of the morning was dedicated to the delegations to meet. This was an opportunity to discuss their next steps for co-operation. For the national delegations, it was a time for sharing ideas for involving their country-based youth work field as well as for paving the way for national priority setting and the creation of planning concrete measures. The European delegations had the same agenda but with a focus on the European perspective.

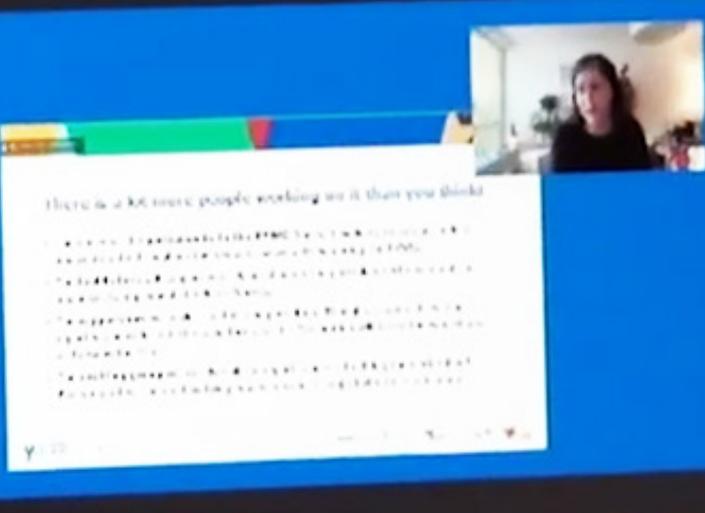
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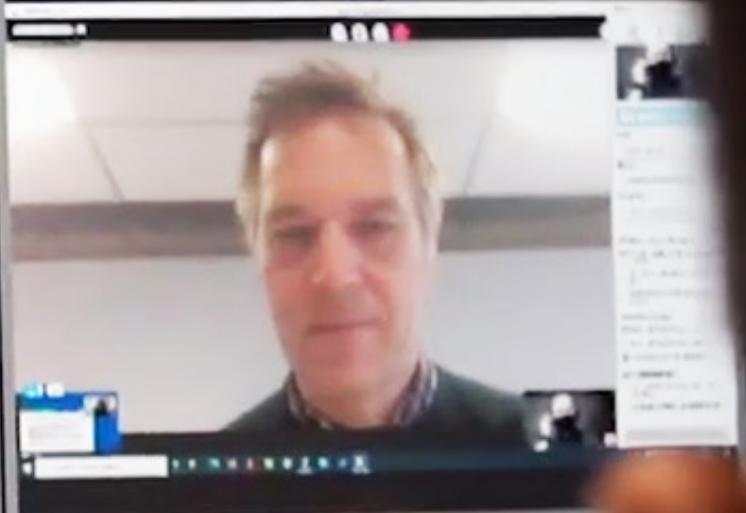
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## Convention News



The [Convention News](#) was a daily news video consisting of information, updates and interviews. It provided a reminder of the previous day's work as well as information on what was happening for the current day. The Convention News gave a few moments each day to focus on a particular issue or key aspect of the EYWC.

## All Things Digital

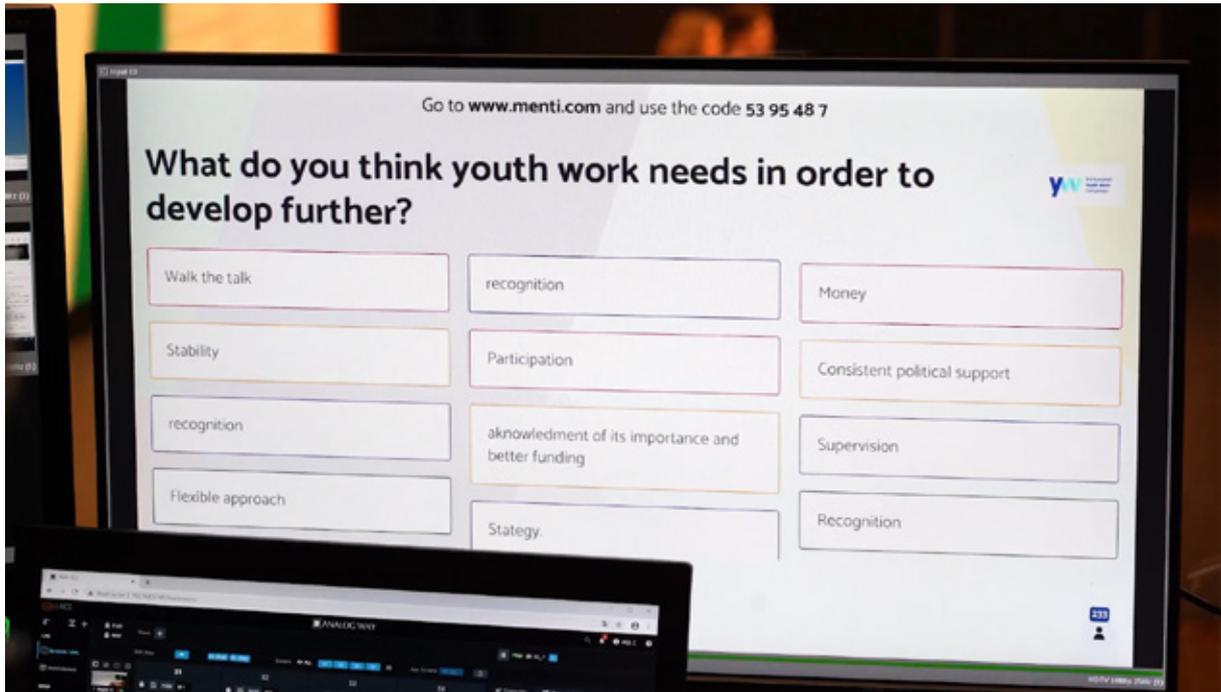
There were several aspects unique to this EYWC since it was the first digital European Youth Work Convention ever. Several tools were successfully introduced and used. Each day careful and concise explanations were provided about every digital aspect, tool, and link used in the EYWC. The explanations by the technical team and moderators brought a lot of clarity and structure into a digitally complex event. The digital aspects included:

- **Convention platform.** The Convention platform was created as the digital space for the EYWC, based on the virtual event platform 'SpotMe'. From here participants could discover one another, were provided key information, could follow the plenary sessions and access the different workshops and meetings of national and European delegations and message one another. Technical features to be able to do this were a community managers messaging feed, meeting rooms, a chat, a match making feature, a leisure time area, materials sections, a media library, notifications, and more;
- **'BlueJeans'.** This was the video conferencing tool that was used and accessed via the Convention platform;
- **Social Wall.** This was a tool that participants could upload their pictures and comments to, using the hashtags: #eywc2020 #bonnprocess #signpostsforthefuture #europeanyouthworkagenda;
- **Mentimeter.** This is a real time creative and interactive polling tool that produces results in different forms, such as graphs or word clouds;
- **Padlet.** This is a tool that operates as a noticeboard where people can add notes and images simultaneously in real time and interactive with one another.

## Convention Material / Background Material

Participants had access to [Convention material](#) and [Background material](#) on the Convention platform (now available through the EYWC2020 website) throughout the whole Convention. They contained all the Convention related documents; resource papers, analytical papers, fact sheets, and other written resources, and videos about youth work and the previous two Conventions, as well as their respective Declarations. There was also a media library with videos, these included: the addition of each days Convention News; a series of 'Explainers' on the EYWA and more detailed explanations of each of the EYWA aims; videos by the panel speakers for the session 'Turning societal challenges into common opportunities' from Day 3; the series of campaign videos on 'What does youth work mean to me?', which were produced by numerous people before the Convention; 21 videos by different youth work organisations / institutions from across Europe titled 'Instead of project visits – youth work introduces itself', these were provided to make up for the traditional project visits that would have taken place in a residential setting; and finally, there were 13 interviews produced throughout the Convention titled 'Youth work in your country – perspectives from the community of practice', giving participants the opportunity to talk about their perspectives on youth work developments in their countries to stimulate discussion at and after the 3<sup>rd</sup> EYWC.





# Day 1

Monday, 7 December 2020

Focus	Purpose	Morning	Afternoon	Evening
Introduction and opening	Laying common ground and providing orientation	Setting the scene and introducing the overall context	Reflecting on the European Youth Work Agenda and youth work in Europe	Networking night

The Convention was opened by the two moderators, Jennifer Sieglar and Tim Schreder, who welcomed all participants and introduced themselves and the whole team behind the scenes that made the Convention happen and got everyone warmed up for full participation and engagement with the processes that were to come. The context of the Convention was explained and the history of the European Youth Work Conventions was briefly shared – the two previous Conventions being in 2010 and 2015, both in Belgium – this was provided through a video presentation. The Convention platform was explained, so the participants could fully engage with all its functions and navigate to the various meetings and sessions they were signed up to.

The first day consisted of a number of speeches and contributions. The official opening speech was made by Franziska Giffey, German Federal Minister for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, at the start of the afternoon

## Voices of the Youth Work Community of Practice

The ‘scene setting’ of the Convention during the opening day was complemented by several voices of the youth work community of practice. Four people who actively shaped youth work in its practical, political and research dimension shared their visions and formulated their expectations to make use of this special momentum at the start of the Convention:

- **Adina Marina Şerban:** Director Cabinet, Ministry of Youth and Sport, Romania;
- **Dr Tomi Kiilakoski:** Senior researcher of the Finnish Youth Research Society, Finland;
- **Musti Önlén:** Youth worker, De Ambrassade, Belgium;
- **Miriam Teuma:** Chief Executive Officer, Agenzija Zghazagh, Malta.

### Adina Marina Şerban



Adina spoke about continuing what “we started ten years ago”, referring to the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> European Youth Work Conventions. She stated that she felt youth workers’ voices were being heard and responded to at every level. Adina went on to talk about how the sector needs to react “better and faster to the changing needs of young people, for example, digital youth work”. She went on to explore the issue of there still being too many young people who do not have access to the digital spaces. She felt that it is the responsibility of youth work to focus on this and find new tools to reach all young people. She closed, in reference to the digital issues, with; “We need to start working together with them and for them.”

### Dr Tomi Kiilakoski, Ph.D.

Tomi stated that from a research perspective the EYWC is all about community – despite all of our differences we are all connected. “The story of the Conventions is about building a sense of European community and finding tools to make that community stronger.” He reminded the participants that the 2<sup>nd</sup> Convention was about common ground and that although this 3<sup>rd</sup> Convention is happening in strange times, the next step is for the sector to better communicate the value of youth work; “It is in such difficult times as this, or during uncertain times of migration and or the eco crisis, that we need to be creating professional alliances and structures.” For him such an approach means being able to communicate the value of youth work more broadly since this is how youth work is being seen.



work has the advantage of being in the right place at the right time. She urged the participants of the EYWC to keep on working together and interacting. She went on to express the need for improving the quality of youth work through proposing and further developing strategies. Miriam expressed that for her the political will is there and the political documents are there but she felt that the sector needs to “stop acting like superheroes and that it needs to become more grounded, she stated, “learn how to prioritise rather than being everywhere.” Miriam closed with the statement that she believed the EYWC is all about the actual practice of youth work – every aspect of it across the sector.

### Musti Önlén

Musti explained that he works on inclusion and diversity in youth work as a policy worker. He shared that although he felt the first two Conventions looked at diversity a lot, especially in the 2<sup>nd</sup>, where the focus was on human rights. However, he went on to state, “we still have a long way to go.” He then explored this issue of how we often judge who is on the left and who is on the right but pushed that we simply have to work together, with everyone. However, he also emphasised that the current political climate in many countries sees political parties dividing people and so there is an increase in exclusion. He closed by stating that youth work needs to be even more focused on including young people in all their diversity, working from the ground up.



### Speech

#### Prof. Howard Williamson: Youth Work in Europe – the Wind in Our Back



Howard started by explaining how the 3<sup>rd</sup> European Youth Work Convention brought together the youth work community of practice. A group that reflects the diversity of ways, in which people are a part of youth work, which welcomes innovation and experience and which covers all corners of our wider Europe.

He shared about how the EYWC is a unique moment because it puts youth work in the focus of political decision-making. This means it is potentially the foundation for building a strategic framework for development; “It has taken ten years, and two previous European Youth Work Conventions to reach this point”.

He expressed that he felt “the time for youth work has now come”. However, he warned that a range of ‘cornerstone challenges’ remain. He clustered these according to four areas.

### Miriam Teuma

Miriam started her input stating that, “we have progressed a lot in some areas but not in others.” She felt that although we are in the midst of a pandemic, youth



The first one was ‘Concepts – what does youth work really do?’. Howard stated that the sector needs to tighten the definitions of youth work to strengthen the common ground. It needs to reconcile the different pressures on youth work, keeping them in balance. The sector needs to be better at articulating the rationale for youth work and its value in terms of its processes,

outcomes and impact. He highlighted the need for clarifying the boundaries and parameters of youth work, in terms of age, target groups, issues and perhaps other dimensions.

The second area was ‘Competence – what competences do youth workers really need?’. Here he expressed the need for the sector to reflect on the kinds of skills and attributes ‘youth workers’ really need. He stressed that the sector needs to agree on ‘occupational standards’, build coherent qualification routes with relevant curricula, and that appropriate institutions need to be identified for the education and training of youth workers.

For the third area, ‘Credibility – why does youth work remain unacknowledged and undervalued?’. Howard urged the youth work community of practice to reflect on why youth work often remains unacknowledged and under-valued. He proposed a number of measures that could combat this. They included, enabling and ensuring appropriate professionalism through the registration of youth workers, introducing a code of ethics and quality standards for youth work, and ensuring greater inputs into policies affecting young people and specifically youth policy.

The fourth was ‘Connections – how should youth work relate within itself and across youth policy and youth issues?’. For this area, Howard stated that the sector needs to reflect on how youth work should relate within itself and across wider youth policy and youth issues. He explored the need for a two-way street between European and local level youth work and went on to say that there is a need to build a rapport with wider youth policy agendas within the domains of formal education, health, housing and justice. He expressed that the sector needs to identify the missing links between urban and rural contexts, horizontally across Europe between countries and within the youth work community of practice, and vertically between local, regional, national and European levels.

Howard explored how the COVID-19 crisis has thrown both the lives of young people and youth policy aspirations into crisis and uncertainty and how it has led to the dramatic expansion of digital youth work. He shared his thoughts on how the ‘digital’ has become the latest methodology for sustaining the principles and values of youth work: educative, participative, empowering, expressive and inclusive.

Howard reminded the participants that this EYWC was taking place ten years after the 1<sup>st</sup> European Youth Work Convention. He stressed that it was now time for all members of the youth work community of practice to confirm their commitment to the common ground and set the direction for the maintenance, development and innovation of youth work throughout Europe. He called on the Convention as a whole to establish, within the European Youth Work Agenda, a vision for the future and the path we, the youth work community of practice, want to take towards the next Convention – the Bonn Process.

He closed with a play on a famous quote: “Let us not ask what other institutions may do for us, but let us consider what we need to do for ourselves”. He went on to repeat that we have “the wind in our back” and added that this 3<sup>rd</sup> European Youth Work Convention – the digital Convention – “provides a ‘never before’ opportunity to consider and consolidate a Youth Work Agenda in Europe.”



After the speech, the participants were invited to answer the question “Tell us one word that resonates with you after this speech?” via Mentimeter. Many people highlighted that they were inspired and felt empowered by the speech, and at the same time many priorities for the work ahead were pointed out.



## Welcome Speech

**Franziska Giffey:**  
**German Federal Minister**  
**for Family Affairs, Senior**  
**Citizens, Women and Youth**



Franziska Giffey started her [welcome speech](#) by expressing gratitude towards the organisers of the EYWC as well as towards the participants. The Minister briefly reminded the audience of the history of European Youth Work Conventions.

The 1<sup>st</sup> EYWC was in 2010 and mostly focused on celebrating the diversity of the youth work community of practice. Five years after that, in 2015, the 2<sup>nd</sup> EYWC aimed at finding the common ground for youth work. She emphasised that the 2020 EYWC is the time to act – to translate these 10 years “into real action”.

The Minister supports the idea to have an EYWC every five years. This would allow for the process of a regular exchange of knowledge and practice. She also proposed setting up an open digital platform for youth workers

and promised that the subject of youth work will remain important on the policy agenda in Germany.

She highlighted that the EU has doubled the funding for its two major international youth work programmes, Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps. Moreover, she reminded the participants that Germany would support, with extra funds, the two European Youth Centres of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg and Budapest.

Franziska Giffey expressed that for her the term ‘youth work community of practice’ is a useful one, because it includes all relevant and different stakeholders. The youth work community of practice represents a step forward to bringing all the different stakeholders together. “The youth work community of practice is all of us!” – with these words, the Minister highlighted that the future must not be centrally based but needs to be the collaborative effort of the youth work community of practice.



## What Does Youth Work Mean To Me?

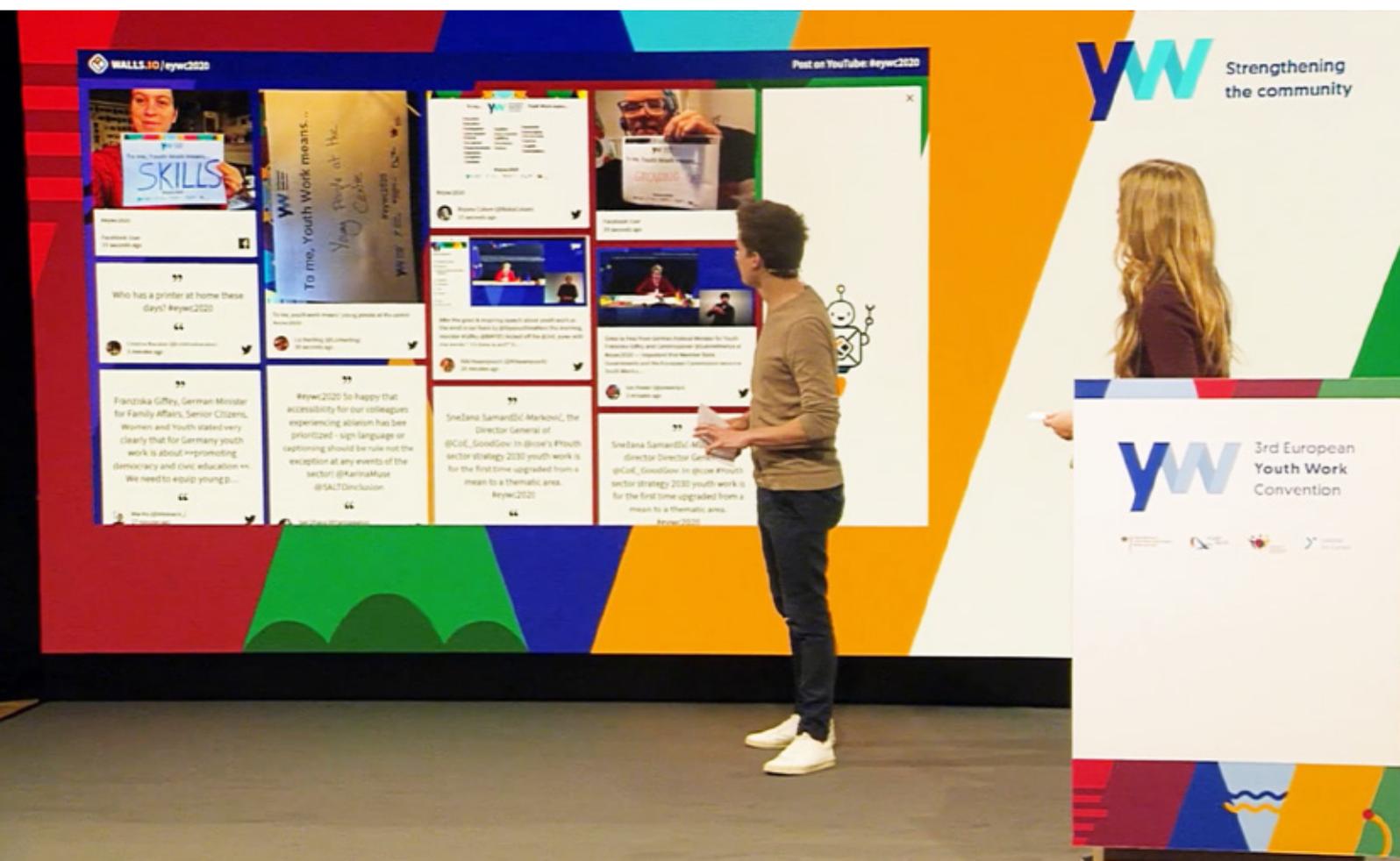


The welcome speech was followed by a [series of short video messages on the theme of ‘What does youth work mean to me?’](#). The messages were from various members of the youth work community of practice from across Europe, representing different aspects of youth work.

After the video messages, all the participants (having been asked in advance to print off a pre-prepared EYWC A4 paper with the logo and the question) were invited to write their response to the same question, take a photo of it or create a digital answer and upload it with the hashtag #eywc2020 to the EYWC Social Wall. The messages were emotional, very personal and deep. Some of the responses to ‘Youth work means...’ are below:

- Belonging to a supportive community;
- Means the world to me!
- Fun;

- Invisible way of learning and building connections;
- Building friendships and relationships that can last a lifetime;
- Continuous learning;
- It is rights-based and needs-orientated;
- Vibrant, creative and exciting;
- Dynamic, challenging area of research;
- Connecting policy-makers, youth workers, young people and researchers;
- It means a world to me;
- Transformation (because of learning, gaining knowledge);
- Impact (with new experiences, they can change their worlds, change politics, the environment and communities);
- Growing up;
- Skills;
- Young people at the centre;
- Chance to change the world;
- Opportunities;
- Empowerment;
- Participation.



## Round Table

**Franziska Giffey:**  
Federal Minister for Family  
Affairs, Senior Citizens,  
Women and Youth.



**Mariya Gabriel:**  
European Commissioner  
for Innovation, Research,  
Culture, Education  
and Youth.

**Snežana Samardžić-  
Marković:** Director  
General of DG Democracy,  
Council of Europe.



The German Minister Franziska Giffey invited both of the European institutions to a high-level round table during the opening day of the EYWC. The three speakers shared their thoughts and feelings on the future of youth work and their wishes for the participants of the EYWC and the opportunity this gathering means.

Snežana Samardžić-Marković remarked on the milestone this EYWC represents and its responsibility for moving the European Youth Work Agenda forward. She thanked Germany for making ‘youth’ a priority in their presidency – something that is already visible!

Mariya Gabriel talked about the EYWC’s huge potential and how youth workers are the key partners to implement ‘our’ common ambitions.

Franziska Giffey pointed out the relevance of digital youth work in securing the existence of youth work.

All the speakers agreed on the importance of the recognition of youth work and youth workers. Especially in relation to civic engagement, the empowerment of young people and skills development, especially at the local level. They underlined the need for an understanding that youth work is not only a means but also a thematic area to be promoted at all levels.

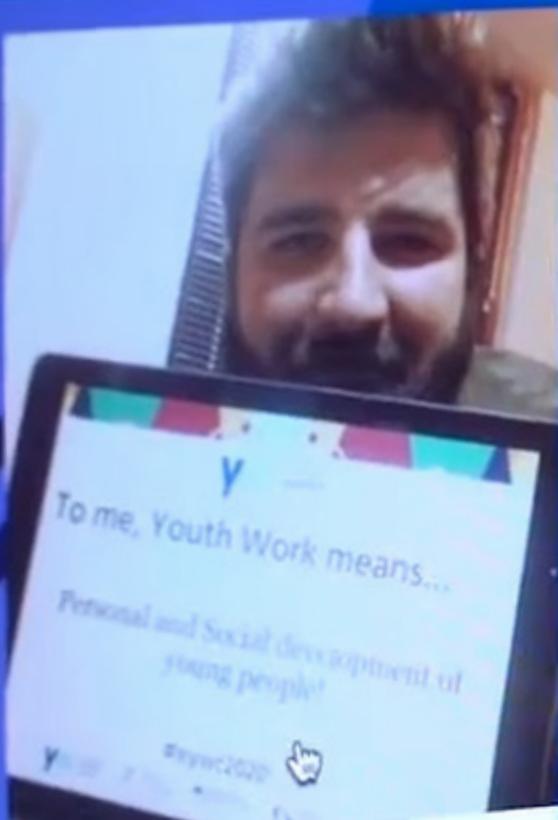
Another important point raised during the round table was the relevance of digital youth work, the development of digital skills, but, at the same time, the importance of going back to activities done in the physical environment as soon as possible. Digital skills are a need that the institutions can no longer ignore and need to support.

A third element discussed during the dialogue was the topic of ‘quality youth work’: the absolute need of developing skills for youth workers, developing quality programmes and guaranteeing the quality of meetings and training courses (mobility of youth workers).

In particular, Snežana Samardžić-Marković highlighted the role of the Council of Europe in the process of recognition and improvement of the quality of youth work. Following the second EYWC, through the support offered by the European Youth Foundation, they fostered the role of youth work as a priority, encouraging political support and promoting youth outreach. She reminded the EYWC participants that in May 2017 the Committee of Ministers adopted the Recommendation on Youth Work CM/REC(2017)4. A European policy document that hugely strengthened youth work. For the first time a strategic document had youth work as the thematic area rather than an instrument achieving other goals. This contributes strongly to the Bonn Process.

The importance of co-operation at the European, national and local/grassroots level was something all three spoke about. They highlighted a range of subjects linked to co-operation, including the importance of building larger alliances of organisations and individuals to promote youth work, the possibility to create unions and favour human encounter. They also underlined how important it is to create cross-sectoral co-operation and put together more than one institution. This was also commented in correlation with the Bonn Process and its diffused structure that involves all the stakeholders at different levels.

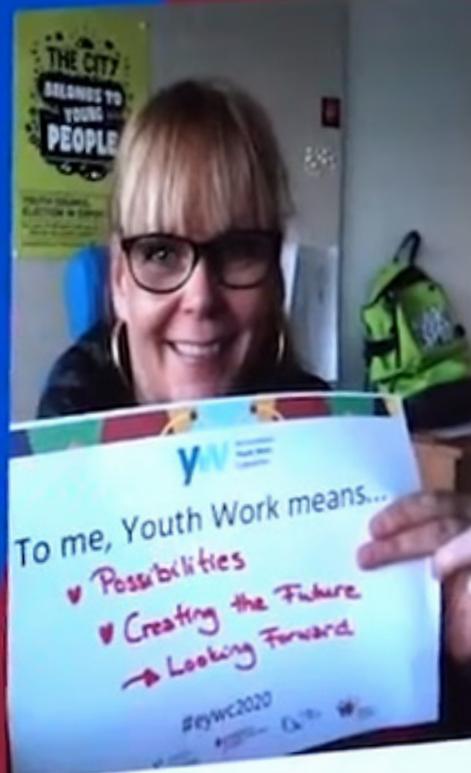
About the Bonn Process, all speakers declared that they wish to see a concrete awareness of it and a wider recognition of youth work in the next five years. Snežana Samardžić-Marković underlined the role of youth workers as being active players in the implementation of the Bonn Process. Franziska Giffey stated that



#EYWC2020  
Instagram User  
a minute ago



#opportunities #youthwork #eywc2020  
Instagram User  
a minute ago



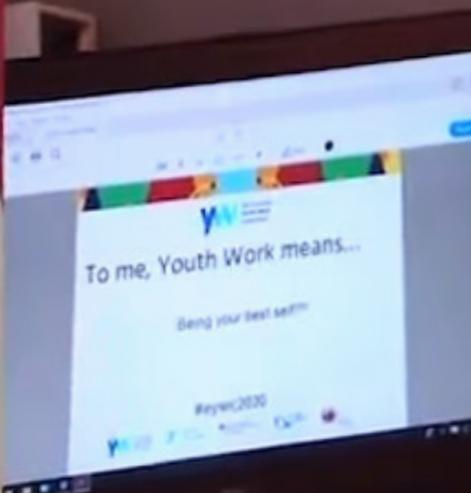
What Youth Work means to me? #eywc2020  
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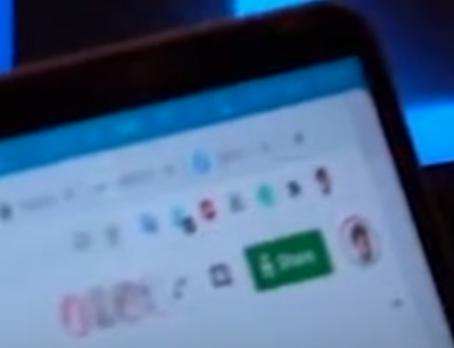
Ajsa Hadzibegovic (@AjsaH)  
a minute ago



To me Youth Work means... #eywc2020



To me Youth Work means... #eywc2020





the role of youth work in the political agenda is “to get things going” and make progress visible through the framework of the Bonn Process.

Franziska Giffey stated that none of the mentioned actions would be developed centrally; the process needs to be a collaborative effort.

Mariya Gabriel closed by saying that the EYWC is a starting point for the implementation of the ambitious objectives of the European Youth Work Agenda.

Snežana Samardžić-Marković closed by stating: “We will be committed partners and advocate for European youth work.”

## Youth Work Community of Practice Stakeholder Inputs

**Ivan Hromada:**  
Joint Council on Youth,  
youth policy perspective.



**Özgehan Senyuva:**  
Assoc. Prof. from Middle  
East Technical University  
of Ankara, youth research  
perspective.

**Andrea Ugrinoska:**  
Chairperson of the Advisory  
Council on Youth, youth  
NGOs perspective.



**Anutosha Lundgren:**  
Director of the youth center  
Arena Satelliten in Sollen-  
tuna next to Stockholm,  
youth practice perspective.

These were a set of short inputs representing a unique set of experiences and perspectives from four inspirational figures from the youth work community of practice. They focused on the needs and prospects of youth work.

All four speakers expressed the importance of establishing youth work as an essential part of youth policies. The speakers elaborated on different political instruments that are being or have been implemented to support youth work. For example, the new Council of Europe Youth Sector Strategy 2030 has youth work as one of its thematic priorities. The Council of Europe's Co-Management System operated through the Advisory Council was highlighted because it is the longest-standing practice of participatory decision-making in the world in the field of youth (mechanism of shared decision-making between governments and youth with power shared 50/50). Anutosha Lundgren high-

lighted the fact that participation of young people is a prerequisite for youth work. She said: “Youth work can never be done top-down.”

Research on youth work was another important element brought up by all four speakers. Özgehan Senyuva emphasised the need for greater collaboration between research and practice. Including more research about the impact of youth work in policymaking, which can help in gaining recognition of youth work. Since the second EYWC, things are in a much better position. Youth research is better off because there is more research dedicated to young people and more systemic research that focuses on long-term analysis. Research, policy, practice and dialogue have all become more structured in the last five years. The initiative of the EU and the Council of Europe Youth Partnership (Youth Partnership) to produce a platform for research and practice and policy dialogue has helped hugely.

The speakers also described the challenges that young people and youth work are facing and will face in relation to COVID-19. Ivan Hromada’s input made parallels between the current situation and the years before the COVID-19 pandemic. The coronavirus crisis has brought disadvantages for everyone, young people included. Many youth organisations were not able to organise their activities. In cases where the activities were moved to the digital sphere, issues like the digital gap arise. There has also been a decline of funds from private donors to youth organisations. The young people are suffering a lot from the lack of stability. However, as Özgehan Senyuva stated, “The pandemic will be over, but youth work is here to stay!”

Özgehan Senyuva shared his concern that to make the vision for youth work come true by the next EYWC, the sector needs to increase the collaboration between researchers and practitioners. He explained that both sides are usually criticising each other instead of collaborating, so to improve there needs to be a development in the communication processes in the youth work community of practice.

Andrea Ugrinoska said, “Let us unite with our expertise and show the young people that we are ready to walk the talk”. Here she emphasised that the EYWC should not be just a theoretical gathering, but a practical step to implementing what is developed at the EYWC regarding the topic of youth work.

## Networking Night

This first evening of the Convention was created as a space for participants to get to know each other and have a look at who else is attending. Six different sessions were offered:

1. The first one was the ‘Open Bar’. This was a place for having a drink together, maybe playing some game or just having a conversation about life;
2. The second space was the ‘Conversations Garden’ where participants could meet others. A number of questions on different topics were posted to help or start up conversations;
3. The third space was the ‘Networking Lounge’. Here participants could share about their organisation or their interests with other like-minded people;
4. The fourth one was about ‘Youth Work Fails’. This was a storytelling space where stories were shared about situations when things did not work out as expected and what was learned from those situations;
5. The fifth space was a ‘Game Room’. Participants were invited to play together an online video game called ‘Among Us’;
6. The sixth space was not pre-planned and was titled ‘Surprise Yourself’. Here participants could gather and suggest an activity.

## Reflections about the First Day

Participants found the first day to be both positive and fun and were happy to be gathered even if it was in the digital environment; there was also pride in being a part of this big and relevant event. There was a lot of anticipation for what was to come in the next days and excitement for a strong result. The Social Wall was buzzing non-stop throughout the day. The first day had shown a high level of participation.

The [Convention News](#) summarised the day.






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# Day 2

Tuesday, 8 December 2020

Focus	Purpose	Morning	Afternoon	Evening
<b>Towards a common European Youth Work Agenda</b>	<b>Preparing the ground for Declaration and Bonn Process</b>	Collaboratively developing ideas for implementing the EYWA in the Bonn Process	Collaboratively developing ideas for implementing the EYWA in the Bonn Process	—

## Welcome to Day 2

The moderators Jennifer Sieglar and Tim Schreder welcomed participants to the second day; they explained the aim of the current day and presented a recap of the previous day. It was remarked on that having so many people attending the Convention and having this event still happening despite the COVID-19 pandemic shows the shared feeling of the importance of the process being undertaken.

## Thematic Strand Workshops

The thematic strand workshops were the first opportunity for the participants to really explore in detail the thematic strands that make up the aims of the European Youth Work Agenda. These workshops were designed to be the main space where the participants would contribute to the content of the final Declaration. Each workshop explored one of the eight thematic strands and each thematic strand was accompanied with a set of fields of action, which the participants explored. To introduce and remind the participants of the eight thematic strands, a video was shown, explaining [the European Youth Work Agenda and its aims](#).



There were 32 thematic strand workshops in total; this number was made up of four workshops for each one of the eight thematic strands of the European Youth Work Agenda:

1. Implementing the European Youth Work Agenda in the Bonn Process as a strategic framework for the development of youth work in Europe;
2. Establishing youth work as an essential part of youth policies;
3. Ensuring and expanding the provision of youth work;
4. Strengthening the common ground of youth work through co-operation between and beyond the youth work community of practice;
5. Supporting the further development of quality youth work;
6. Supporting the ability of youth work to tackle emerging challenges and innovate its practices;
7. Enhancing the promotion and recognition of youth work;
8. Ensuring a strong role for youth work in the new normal.

Each workshop was supported by one facilitator and one rapporteur. The workshops provided participants the opportunity to share their opinions and standpoints on the particular thematic strand they chose and the specific fields of action within each thematic strand. Discussions ranged from being broad and wide to being specific and intense. Participants' profiles were very mixed in each workshop, coming from different backgrounds and parts of the youth work community of practice, as well as different countries from wider Europe.

The methodologies were interactive and dynamic and engaged the participants in the various themes. The facilitators utilised individual work, small groups (break-

out rooms), discussions with the whole group, videos, presentations, Mentimeter, Padlet and various specifically developed activities.

Each group of four workshops would explore their particular thematic strand and its set of fields of action. The participants were asked to explore the fields of action they felt most relevant and analyse them. Not all the workshops focused on all the fields of action for the thematic strand they were exploring. Some decided to work intensely on one or two while others covered up to five. There was also an option to adapt the fields of action or even produce new ones.

Each workshop was tasked with providing feedback and information from their experience as the youth work community of practice on each field of action they covered within their thematic strand. The rapporteurs, using predefined reporting forms, recorded this information and passed it to the drafting group. The drafting group then had the raw material to develop and write the final Declaration based on what was recorded from all the discussions, decisions and proposals from each thematic strand workshop group. For the feedback the participants were asked to consider a number of different points; why they focused on this field of action, what were the specific elements they wanted to highlight, what were the milestones required for this field of action to be successfully implemented, how would that progress be monitored, and finally anything of particular note or importance they felt the drafting group should know about?

## Stakeholder Workshops

The afternoon of Day 2 provided a second space for the participants to explore once again the eight thematic strands. However, on this occasion the participants were invited to explore the thematic strands in groups of their peers – stakeholder groups. There were a total of 16 identified stakeholder groups:

1. National Agencies;
2. SALTO Resource Centres;
3. Youth councils;
4. Researchers;
5. Educational institutions for youth work;
6. Trainers and facilitators;

7. Representatives from national ministries;
8. European institutions (EU, CoE);
9. Youth centres;
10. Regional and local youth work organisations, including youth workers;
11. National youth work umbrella organisations;
12. Youth worker associations;
13. Regional and local bodies responsible for youth work;
14. European youth work organisations;
15. Youth information work;
16. International youth work.

Some of the stakeholders were present in larger numbers, and so up to three workshops were organised for some groups, while the majority had one.

With the support of a facilitator and a rapporteur, each stakeholder group was free to explore the specific fields of action that they saw as a priority for them. The workshops were reported to be productive with a lot of people attending. The rapporteurs were again responsible for recording the inputs of the stakeholder participants and feeding key agreements and proposals based on the fields of action back to the drafting group.

Below is a brief summary of the key areas each stakeholder group covered in their workshop:

### **Strand 1: Implementing the European Youth Work Agenda in the Bonn Process as a strategic framework for the development of youth work in Europe.**

This was covered four times. The main emphasis of the stakeholder groups being on the implementation of the European Youth Work Agenda and good coordination of the Bonn Process to strengthen youth work in Europe.

### **Strand 2: Establishing youth work as an essential part of youth policies.**

Appeared twelve times among all the stakeholder groups, with field of action 2.2 being explored six times; ‘Establishing and further strengthening youth work as a constituent element of youth policies and/or youth policy frameworks in member States integrating all levels.’ The groups also highlighted the need for European strategies, such as the EU Youth Strategy and the Council of Europe Youth Sector Strategy. There was a desire to see academic and field-based knowledge feeding into youth work policies as well as a promotion

of youth and youth work friendly approaches being adopted in all relevant fields of governance.

### **Strand 3: Ensuring and expanding the provision of youth work.**

This was the single most covered strand. Through its various fields of action, it was explored and analysed 16 times among all the stakeholder groups. The two key areas were for equipping youth work institutions and structures with sufficient resources and conditions to provide youth work to all young people and for the strengthening of European youth work through enlarged European programmes. Other aspects explored in strand three included equal access to youth work for all young people and implementing strategies to enrich youth work.

### **Strand 4: Strengthening the common ground of youth work through co-operation within and beyond the community of practice.**

It was field of action 4.1 that dominated the discussions; ‘Strengthening continuous forms of co-operation and exchange within the youth work community of practice across Europe for analysing, examining and discussing common approaches and of youth work development in Europe.’ This appeared six times in all the stakeholder groups as a key area of interest and importance. There were two other fields of action that also called for attention; participants focused on the need for an interconnected youth work community of practice, which supports co-operation on issues of importance in young people’s lives, and the establishing of greater cross-sectoral co-operation between the youth work community of practice and other sectors.

### **Strand 5: Supporting the further development of quality youth work.**

Field of action 5.2, ‘Developing and implementing a framework for quality youth work development based on existing knowledge and practices, a common understanding and shared principles of quality youth work’, was explored seven times. It was the most popular field of action that the stakeholder groups examined. Other areas in strand 5 included discussions on the role of European youth work in promoting democratic values, active citizenship and solidarity, the creation and implementation of a competency-based framework for the education and training of youth workers, and a desire to see an increase in academic and practice-based research on youth work in Europe.

### **Strand 6: Supporting the ability of youth work to tackle emerging challenges and innovate its practices.**

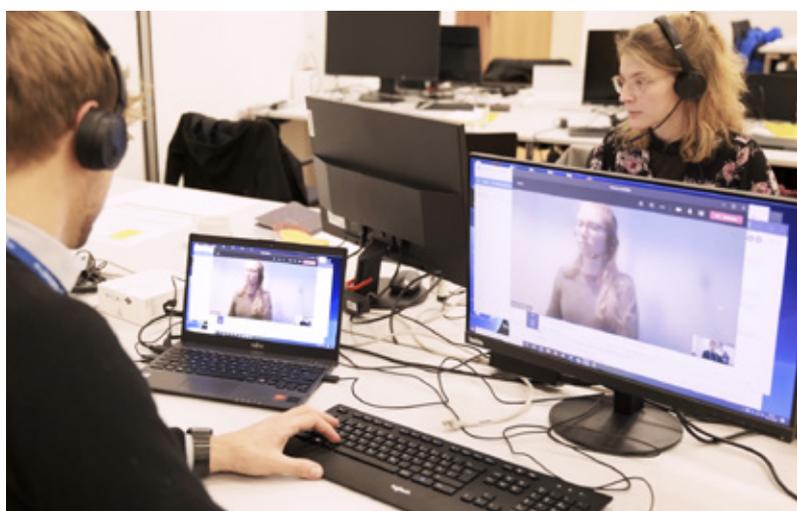
This strand was similar to strand 1 in that it was explored only a few times in the stakeholder groups. In essence, the part of strand 6 that appealed to the groups was the area around supporting youth work in developing innovative practice to respond better to the needs of young people, emerging trends and other challenges.

### **Strand 7: Enhancing the promotion and recognition of youth work.**

This strand had five fields of action that were highlighted by the groups. The stakeholders wanted to see strategies and measures in place for the promotion and recognition of youth work. They also wanted to see strategies and instruments developed for the recognition and validation of non-formal education and learning in youth work. The groups focused on the promotion, relevance and importance of youth work, its contribution to society and its empowerment of young people, and they examined how the youth work sector could do all of the above with more visibility.

### **Strand 8: Ensuring a strong role for youth work in the ‘new normal’.**

The main focus here was on the youth work sector’s relationship with digital and technological innovations, and how the sector could ensure adequate infrastructure and adequately qualified youth workers, who can work in this area. The importance of ensuring youth work’s relevance in the ‘new normal’ while maintaining its values was also explored.



## Market Place

Many organisations and individuals made use of this space to offer their own workshops. There was a lot of interest in the different topics and organisations being presented, in total there were 22 market place workshops on offer. Despite being at the end of a long day the workshops were reasonably well attended and supported.

They consisted of:

1. Young, youth, whatever – youth work policy perspectives on young people;
2. Relativising European youth work – from the Japanese youth work perspective / International comparative studies on the EYWC. How is it seen by the world? Where is it heading?
3. Mindfulness in youth work;
4. Supervision in youth work – what do we have?
5. Synergising theory with research: how to make your participatory (action) research in youth work more trustworthy;
6. Evaluation of youth policy and practice;
7. Strengthening youth research for more qualified, innovative and sustainable youth work;
8. Creativity and innovation in youth work;
9. The Logbook – system for documentation and follow-up of youth work;
10. Recognition of youth work professions – the case of youth information workers;
11. Building human connections with digital youth work;
12. Researching the impact of youth work (in Flanders);
13. Youth work and sustainable communities – the role of the European Youth Card in delivering youth work services;
14. European Platform on Learning Mobility in 60 minutes;
15. Policy advice in civil society – presentation of the German Bundesjugendkuratorium as a national body;
16. Preventing and fighting violent radicalisation from another perspective: the role of social antimafia in youth work in Europe;
17. Youth workers and decision-makers: transparent communication as a mediator for cross-sectoral co-operation;
18. Back to the future!
19. The Council of Europe Youth Work Portfolio;
20. Strategy for European Solidarity Corps projects in the Western Balkans;
21. Youth (work) in the Council of Europe and the role of young people in the co-management system;
22. Participative international youth work and the best practice project ‘wir weit weg/we far away’.

## Leisure Time Evening

There was no official programme for the evening, however, the Convention platform provided a ‘leisure time area’, a series of rooms that participants could jump into and out of as they wanted, where they could meet each other and hang out socially. Quite a lot of people turned up and engaged in the different rooms that were available in the evening.

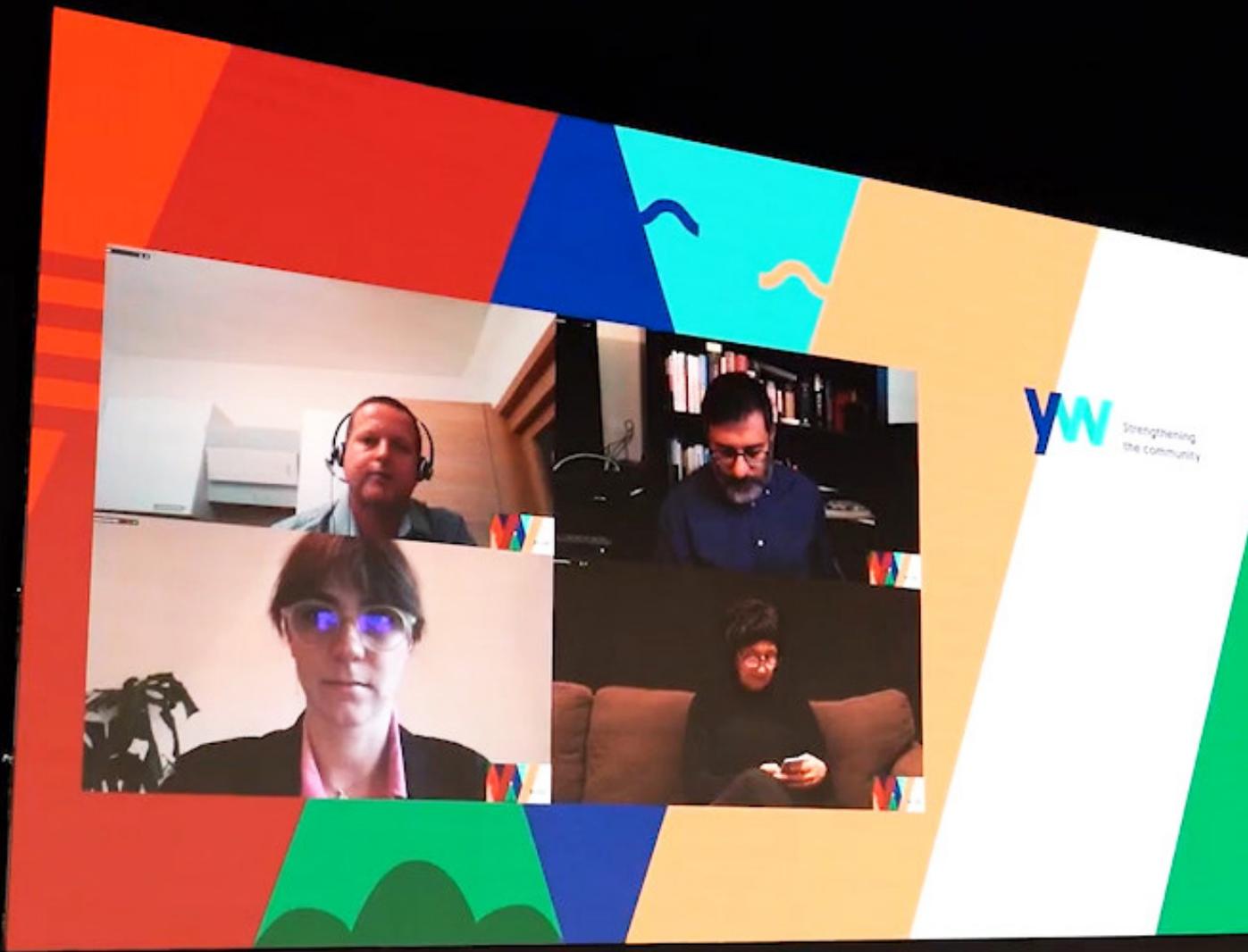
## Reflections about the Second Day

The day was packed with a lot of intensive work, which focused on the fields of action and the aims of the European Youth Work Agenda. There was a strong enthusiasm throughout the day from the participants, and the workshops were reported as being vibrant.

The levels of participation in the different workshops varied, with some workshops receiving a lot of participants and others only a few, some even merged because of this. Participants reported that the workshops throughout the day provided a lot of clarity regarding the EYWA and its eight thematic strands. It was appreciated that the plenary sessions were short but that they provided very clearly the basic information of what was happening and where, and they also gave a lot of insights.



The [Convention News](#) summarised the day.





# Day 3

Wednesday, 9 December 2020

Focus	Purpose	Morning	Afternoon	Evening
Inspiration and debate	Linking the Agenda themes and youth work practice	Bonn Process	Congress	Celebrating the EYWA

## Welcome to Day 3

Day 3 started with the moderators Jennifer Sieglar and Tim Schreder welcoming participants and making a number of announcements for the day. A Mentimeter poll was conducted, asking participants 'How are you feeling today?', the main responses were related to participants being happy, thoughtful, excited and tired. Participants were encouraged to continue posting media content using the #eywc2020 hashtag.

The day's programme was shown on the screen and participants were encouraged first to select the panel discussion they would like to attend and then to select the congress workshops they would find most beneficial and could contribute to the most.

## Panel Discussions

The overall theme for the panel discussions was **'Turning societal challenges into common opportunities'**.



There were four panels on offer for the participants to attend. Each panel had a more specific title and subject area with three or four speakers / experts linked to the subject. Each panel was set up in a similar way with the

facilitator asking questions and offering a few moments for each panellist to reply. During these exchanges, participants were invited to write comments and questions in the Convention platform messenger service.

The speakers had also been asked to pre-record a **short video**, providing further insights to their subject area. These could be observed even before the start of the Convention.



In all the panels the atmosphere was friendly and welcoming, with participants able to share their thoughts and knowledge on the different subjects. It was clear that the participants were becoming more comfortable each day with the digital set-up of the Convention.

Panel one: Democracy and Active Citizenship;  
Panel two: Environment and Sustainable Development;  
Panel three: Equal and Just Societies;  
Panel four: Societal Change and Innovation.

### Panel one: Democracy and Active Citizenship

- **Peter Matjašič:** Future of democracy and open societies.
- **Emilia Roig:** Intersectional vulnerabilities to which young people are exposed.
- **Yael Ohana:** Civic Education, critical citizenship and a political role of youth work.
- **Nini Tsiklauri:** How to revitalise European democracy in a way that is attractive to young people.

Democracy is under pressure, also in Europe. Recent developments like shrinking civic spaces, vast polarisation and increasing authoritarian tendencies all

over Europe are just a few examples, which show that democracy and an open society can never be taken for granted. The panel discussed what youth work could contribute to overcoming the challenges democracies in Europe are facing. What role can youth work play to foster democracy and active citizenship of young people?

#### Peter Matjašič

Peter explained that as Europeans we have very different experiences of what democracy means and even the most basic principles and values are questioned. At the same time, democracy-led society is evolving constantly and thus open, giving opportunities to young people to be critically aware and active. So, Peter feels concerned and hopeful at the same time. What he plead for was that: “Safeguarding youth civic spaces should remain high on the agenda of policy makers!”



#### Emilia Roig

Emilia stated that our societies are in the midst of a transformation and sees chaos and crisis as a portal for change. Systems are looked at through an intersectional lens to debate, dismantle, and change the existing hierarchies in our societies. “The main task that we are faced with”, Emilia said, “is to imagine and to try to devise new ways of being in this world.” Young generations have a very big role to play in becoming aware of the existing hierarchies, making them visible, deconstructing them, and diverting from their systems and frameworks.



#### Yael Ohana

Yael had three main arguments about youth work. First, youth work is political work; second, the ‘political’ in youth work is not party-political, but it is not neutral either; third, youth work’s political dimension is nothing to be afraid of. In consequence, Yael feels: “Youth work needs to be/become more politically literate! To say that, it needs to have a clear understanding of its political role towards young people, the responsibility for them!”



#### Nini Tsiklauri

Nini lives her dream of re-establishing the European idea through all Europeans every day. There are two important tools for civic engagement, i. e. house parliaments and do-tanks, to counteract the lack of political education for young people. “If this EU reform process fails in the next few years”, Nini warned, “our future will fail. So, we don’t have much time left and we have to do something now.”



The four speakers formulated expectations towards and insights on what youth work should contribute to overcoming current and future challenges in the field of democracy and active citizenship. The discussion was also enriched by the questions that were posted in the Convention platform chat.

The speakers shared that the current challenges democracy and democratic societies in Europe are facing affect youth work and reduce the participation rate of young people in society. When civic spaces are being closed, one of the impacts is the reduction of youth rights and a reduction in their participation rate. About one third of all youth organisations face difficulties in participating in the development of youth policies, and one out of ten are excluded from the policy processes.

When the spaces for participation are being shrunk, youth organisations need to organise other spaces and rethink other spaces so that youth voices can be heard. Unfortunately, in many cases this requires flexible funding to be able to respond to the youth needs and interests, which is not always possible.





The youth sector must not be afraid to play an active role in this political agenda, while keeping its non-partisan role. At the same time youth work needs to be understood as an essential part of youth policies. Youth work is political work because it resides with the policies and politics.

The European Youth Work Agenda can encourage governments to provide funding and develop implementation mechanism instruments for the creation of safe spaces for the participation of young people. At the same time, youth workers should find the mechanisms to restore the young people's trust in the core values of the European Union.

Youth organisations need to ensure the development of competencies that young people need to participate is prioritised. These skills enable young people to stay active as citizens in society. The sector also needs to expand the provision of youth work by ensuring a better outreach to all young people. At the same time, it is important to ensure that the needs of the young people and the youth work taking place are visible on the public agenda and youth workers should clearly understand their role for this purpose.

### Panel two: Environment and Sustainable Development

- **Jasson Jakovides:** Non-formal learning and sustainable development.
- **Johanna Nyman:** Environmental governance.
- **Burcu Meltem Arik Akyü:** Environmental education and the role of youth work.

Hardly any other topic has gained as much importance in recent years as climate issues and sustainability. Nevertheless, in many places, there is a lack of truly sustainable policy and practice. Above all, young people are increasingly putting pressure on political decision-makers and society. The panel discussed what political framework is needed and what learning settings are useful so that youth work and non-formal / informal learning contribute to sustainable development.

#### Jasson Jakovides

Jasson talked about non-formal education in sustainable development and in Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), which in particular is vital. He highlighted that when a community identifies possibilities for co-operation in environmental issues, youth work should be a key part of it. The ESD framework supports understanding of the importance of youth and youth work.



#### Burcu Meltem

Burcu proposed a set of alternative principles for environmental policymaking. She stressed that young people – youth work – has a crucial role to play in imagining a different world. It was also pointed out that we need to reconfigure our approach to go beyond learning about sustainable development to becoming “one with the world, human and non-human”.



#### Johanna Nyman

Johanna introduced the subject of environmental governance as the system of making environmental decisions, most of which highly affect young people. She went on to talk about how breaking down big environmental decisions to specific mechanisms produces good entry points for young people and youth organisations to get involved. There are also existing structures where young people can be represented and these should be seized on – with the right support.



A number of questions were asked from the participants. The first participant asked about frameworks for participation. The panellists responded that bringing young people and other age groups to work together on solving shared problems was a strong framework. They acknowledged that many frameworks already exist but just need to be made more popular.

The next question was about whether young people make a difference to environmental issues. The panellists said that the starting point was simply to listen to young people's views and that youth organisations should be acting as a catalyst to get those views heard by decision-makers. However, it was acknowledged that too often consultation processes fail, because the proposals of the young people do not align with what the 'adult decision-makers' think.

The third question asked about the resources that a youth organisation needs to address environmental issues. The main answer was that the resources are in the youth workers, the young people and the locality. The panellists urged youth organisations to take the young people into the community and surrounding areas to explore physically what is around them and what is environmentally wrong.

The final question focused on the competences needed to get young people to act on environment and sustainability. The panellists responded that collective solidarity, critical thinking and design thinking were all necessary for turning a problem into a solution. A holistic approach is useful, moving the young people from knowledge to experience. In addition, it was stated that participation and empowerment are key skills that need to be developed.

### Panel three: Equal and Just Societies

- **Kamil Goungor:** Marginalised groups of young people.
- **Tea Jarc:** Labour market and exclusion.
- **Maria Pisani:** Migration.
- **Hande Taner:** Social exclusion of young people.

Marginalisation, discrimination, social exclusion, and racism are present in many areas of our societies. There is no equality and justice for all; inclusive societies are not yet a reality. The panel discussed what is needed to

overcome social exclusion of young people in Europe and how youth work can contribute to approaching the vision of equal and just societies.

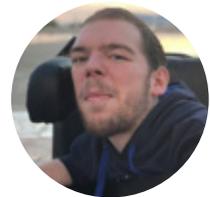
#### Tea Jarc

Tea spoke about how young people are the first affected by the pandemic, which also has an impact on their employment possibilities. She explored how youth work provides competence development but highlighted that it needs to go beyond just addressing individual challenges and that it should be tackling the systematic inequalities that hamper the personal and professional development of young people.



#### Kamil Goungor

Kamil began by pointing out that all aspects of youth work should be inclusive and thought through. He went on to explore why it is not about special treatment for any marginalised group, that positive discrimination is not what is needed, but instead equal treatment is what is needed. He stressed that youth work needs to be more inclusive, that the sector needs to have a larger awareness of the importance of inclusion and accessibility.



#### Hande Taner

Hande emphasised that we need to look beyond our own areas of work to understand the broader context of youth work and so build empathy and solidarity to stand up for oppressed groups of young people. She went on to say that shrinking civil society spaces affects youth participation negatively. Hande closed her input by pushing that to promote participation we need to be enabling young people to enter into dialogue with decision-makers.



#### Maria Pisani

Maria shared that the majority of those crossing the Mediterranean are 14 to 27 years of age. She explained that there are many human rights viola-



tions taking place both at sea and on land and that access to citizenship for these young people is a huge issue. Maria stated that for her, youth work needs to look beyond borders; it needs to be a space for young people to question what they are in the process of becoming.

In the space provided for questions and answers, the panellists highlighted the following:

- Involve everybody in the discussion;
- Let's go planetary: it's all of us or none of us;
- Youth organisations must be well-equipped (financially, innovative, etc.) to do their job;
- Do not be afraid to be political, if we step up for values of youth work, we will succeed.

#### Panel four: Societal Change and Innovation

- **Theo Spanos Dunfey:** Social change and transformation of cultural and social institutions.
- **Lars Norqvist:** Digital transformation of society and its impact on young people's life.
- **Veronica Stefan:** Digitalisation, education and innovation.

Societies are in a constant process of change. Digitalisation is one of the most recent transformation processes that influences societies and our way of life enormously, the COVID-19 pandemic another current influencer. Youth work is affected by these processes and is trying out many things, but still has to find a long-term approach. The panel discussed social change, societal transformation and innovation in general and focused on digitalisation in particular. What does it mean for young people, their learning, engagement and empowerment?

#### Lars Norqvist

Lars stated that decision-making and participation can be supported by digital transformation and posed the question: "is there space for all young people?" He used his input time to explore how digital transformation in youth work can enhance dialogue in different forms and spaces: Same time/same place – various meetings; Same time/different place – online meetings, such as the EYWC 2020; Different time/different place – online platforms; and Different time/same place – certain info spots.



#### Theo Spanos Dunfey

Theo explored how social changes occur over time and have profound and long-term consequences. She also highlighted that human rights, women rights, LGBTQI+ rights are examples of massive social movements that have used collective power to influence social change. She stressed that change begins with how and when we interact with others and that the first steps are listening, acceptance and conversations.



#### Veronica Stefan

Veronica explained that even with the COVID-19 pandemic, youth work has shown its flexibility, adapting to changes and dealing with multiple issues. She pointed out however, that online education and civic engagement (including youth work) account for only a tiny percentage of time used online during the pandemic. This is compared with social media and entertainment. She went on to say that there are many benefits and opportunities but that we still need to be aware of the potential for the misuse of data.



The facilitators proceeded to ask some questions to the panellists and incorporated comments from the participants into the ongoing discussion. The questions were about the role of youth work in contributing to societal change, in turning challenges into opportunities, and how to ensure inclusiveness and empowerment of young people in digital or societal transformation.

Their collective response was that there is a need to change mind-sets, it was pointed out that technology is not good or bad – it is the way it is used that is important. The panellists also spoke about the fact that change happens over time, not overnight. Youth work can engage the challenges and support young people in becoming both mindful and responsible users and creators. It is the same approach towards the needs of young people as when we are working offline.

One of the participants highlighted that for them the online applications we use and have access to are not far from the non-formal learning principles and values, it is just a question of adaptation and using multiple tools to get the personal touch.

## European Implementation Instruments



The [European Implementation Instruments](#) session was provided to inform the participants of recent updates and news. It was also designed to inform about the importance of the role of these instruments at European level in the Bonn Process. The session was recorded and the recording played in two other time slots, both of which were attended quite well.

### European Youth Foundation

In 2020, the European Youth Foundation (EYF) granted financial support to 134 projects, totalling nearly 2.5 million Euros. There are currently over 1,000 youth organisations registered in the EYF database. The smaller scale of EYF grants allows for more direct communication with the youth organisations, which is valued and appreciated. This leads to advantages in understanding and adapting to contextualised needs of the organisations and makes the EYF easily accessible.

For 2021 and beyond, youth work will not only remain a priority, but there is also the intention to reinforce this area. There is ongoing funding available for youth work projects. There is a 3.5 million Euros annual budget for funding non-governmental youth organisations through pilot (local) activities, one-off international activities, annual work plans, and two-year structural grants. The grants go up to 50,000 Euros.

## EU Programmes

### Erasmus+ Youth and European Solidarity Corps

The upcoming programmes will have an increased budget and feature the following novelties and key features:

#### More inclusive

- Promoting equal opportunities and access, inclusion, diversity and fairness across all its actions by providing mechanisms and resources that will be available to organisations;
- The Inclusion and Diversity Strategy will set up a framework for the projects intending to work on inclusion and diversity related issues.

#### Greener

- Raising the importance of sustainable action, by favouring greener projects with, for example, more sustainable travel means.

#### More digital

- Supporting the taking-up of digital technologies and by reaching out to a larger target group both within and beyond the EU;
- Promoting a greater use of information, communication and technology tools;
- Combining physical mobility and virtual learning and virtual co-operation;
- Supporting the development of high quality digital skills and competences;
- The Digital Education Action Plan “leaves no doubt: we all need digital skills to face the future.”



#### Simpler

- Simplifying the programmes design, the IT tools and the administrative procedures and requirements.
- Broader
- In terms of geo-scope (HumAid) and in terms of formats.

#### EYWA

- The Agenda is going to be articulated with the new programme windows, even in terms of how youth organisations apply their projects for funding.

#### Erasmus+ Youth

It is expected that the budget will be 24 billion Euros (approximately a 75% increase compared to 14.7 billion Euros for the 2014 to 2020 Erasmus+ programme). There is a possible further increase of 2.2 billion Euros to the already agreed amount.

EU level co-operation will focus on implementing the European Youth Work Agenda for quality, innovation and the recognition of youth work:

- Developing and disseminating practical toolkits for quality youth work;
- Supporting grassroots activities addressing recognition, innovation and capacity-building of youth work under Erasmus+;
- Supporting mutual learning and evidence building on digital youth work, youth worker skills and financing youth work.

Financial support regarding:

- Non-formal and informal learning mobility experiences and active participation among young people and youth workers;
- Co-operation, quality, inclusion, creativity and innovation at the level of organisations and policies in the field of youth.



#### European Solidarity Corps

There are financial support possibilities for:

- Making a meaningful contribution to society and helping to resolve challenging situations across Europe by taking part in volunteering, jobs, traineeships or setting up local solidarity projects;
- Developing skills and getting some valuable experience in volunteering processes.

European Solidarity Corps has been extended and up-scaled to offer more solidarity opportunities for young people to engage in solidarity. Highlights of the 2021 to 2027 programme:

- Over 350,000 opportunities for young people;
- 1.26 billion Euros budget;
- Integration of activities in support of humanitarian aid operations;
- Extension of geographical scope: activities worldwide;
- Reflecting on the objectives of the new programmes, contributing to inclusion, digital and green approach;
- Improved processes and simplification for organisations and young people interested in participating.

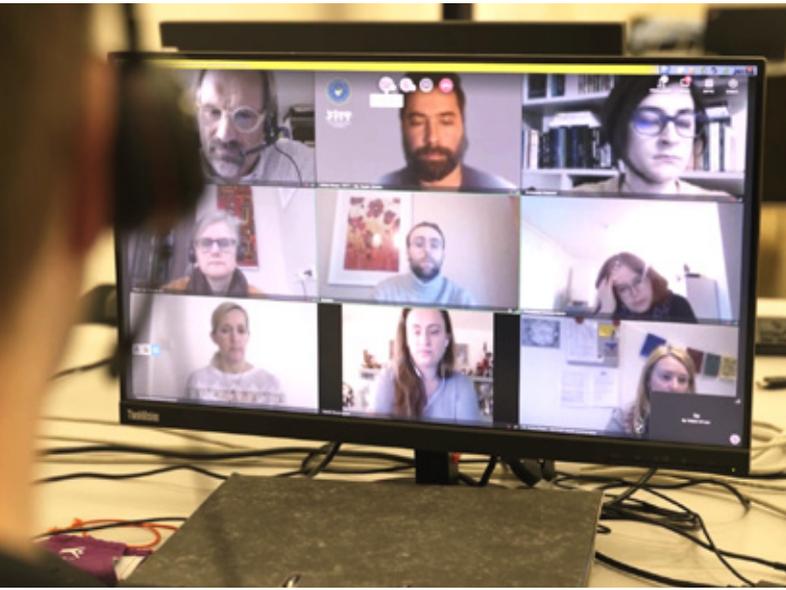
#### Additional Instruments

There are EU instruments beyond Erasmus+ Youth and European Solidarity Corps that can contribute to the implementation of the European Youth Work Agenda, such as the Youth Wiki, the European Youth Portal, the European Youth Goals, the Youth Partnership, the European Education Area and an ongoing study on the needs of youth workers.

#### Congress Workshops

This was the third set of workshops for engaging the participants in exploring the thematic strands and fields of action, this time the perspective was from a broad set of eight topics linked to the thematic strands. Participants again had the possibility to produce results and feedback for the final Declaration.

There were three rounds of 24 parallel workshops – plus an option for a further eight ‘open workshops’ with themes or topics proposed by the participants the previous day. Participants had the chance to join a total of three workshops throughout the day.



The aims of the congress workshops were to provide the opportunity for discussion on topic areas, for participants to explore and exchange about good practice and inspire one another. They were designed as well for participants to explore further different aspects of the European implementation instruments. The congress workshops were further supported with experts and speakers knowledgeable about a specific topic, from different corners of Europe, who would share their expertise or good practice.

The congress workshops' eight topics linked to the thematic strands were:

1. **Making It Happen;**
2. **Creating New Spaces;**
3. **Growing Youth Work;**
4. **Strengthening the Community;**
5. **Collaborating for High Quality;**
6. **Boosting Opportunities;**
7. **Promoting Youth Work;**
8. **Getting Crisis-Savvy.**

Each topic had four specific working themes that created the actual workshops, and each of these would be repeated twice over three rounds. This provided the participants a broad range of opportunities for exploration and discussion. Each of these workshops had between one and three contributors, who are experts in the topic, and each was supported by a facilitator and a rapporteur.

Below is a list of the congress workshops, the contributors and a brief description:

### Making It Happen

#### Integrating the Agenda in the EU Youth Strategy

- **Florencia van Houdt:** Head of the Youth Unit within the European Commission.
- **Uwe Finke-Timpe:** Head of Department 504 European and International Youth Policy, Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth.



In the workshop, it was discussed how the European Youth Work Agenda needs to be aligned with the overall strategy within the field of youth of the European Union. Particular focus was on how the EU Youth Strategy can support youth work development within the new European Youth Work Agenda and how use can be made of what the EU Youth Strategy has to offer to implement measures and activities to boost youth work.

#### Integrating the Agenda in the Youth Sector Strategy of the Council of Europe

- **Antje Rothemund:** Head of the Youth Department in the Directorate General of Democracy of the Council of Europe.
- **Seija Astala:** Senior Ministerial Adviser at the Finnish Ministry of Education and Culture.



The workshop discussed how the European Youth Work Agenda needs to be aligned with the overall strategy of the youth sector in the Council of Europe. The main focus was on how the Council of Europe can support youth work development within the new European Youth Work Agenda and how use can be made of what the CoE has to offer to implement measures and activities to boost youth work.



### Designing an Impactful Bonn Process through Strategic Joint Action

- **Miriam Teuma:**  
CEO Agenzija Zghazagh  
Malta Youth Agency.
- **Tanya Basarab:** Manager  
ad interim, EU-Council of  
Europe Youth Partnership.



The workshop explored the question of how a co-ordinated approach for the Bonn Process can be established and how the Bonn Process can be linked with overall youth work development and the development of specific issues. Questions tackled included: Which elements need to be foreseen? How could an intended 'network for youth work development in Europe' best support the Bonn Process?

### Strong Involvement of the Youth Work Community of Practice in the Bonn Process

- **Dr Ewa Krzaklewska:**  
Member of the Pool of  
European Youth Researchers.
- **Andrea Casamenti:**  
Board member, European  
Youth Forum.
- **Massimo Capano:**  
Head of European Projects  
and Youth Work Department,  
Municipality of Cinisello  
Balsamo, Italy.



This workshop explored why the Bonn Process needs a systematic and broad engagement of all stakeholders in the youth work community of practice in its implementation and further development. Participants discussed how such an involving approach could be realised and secured at various levels.

### Creating New Spaces

#### Youth Work in the Spotlight of European Youth Strategies

- **Dr Guy Redig:**  
Director of Kabinet of  
Flemish Youth Minister.



In the workshop it was explored how youth work in its various forms, dimensions and disciplines, plays an increasingly crucial role in European youth strategies. The workshop dealt with the question of how the use of existing instruments can be stimulated. They discussed which elements and principles are needed to ensure the further development and sustainable and impactful support of youth work.

#### Youth Work as a Constituent Part of Youth Policies in the Member States

- **Thomas Andersson:**  
President, Regional Council,  
Region Jämtland Härjedalen,  
Sweden and Spokesperson on  
Youth at the Congress of the  
Council of Europe.
- **Marti Taru:** Researcher,  
Tallinn University, Estonia.



Here the discussions and inputs explored the situation of youth work across Europe, in the member States of both the Council of Europe and European Union. There was a focus on how European level youth work is seen increasingly as an important element of youth strategies, even though this perspective is not equally shared in all countries and at all levels. They discussed how youth work could become a constituent element of youth policies at national, regional and local levels.

#### Youth and Youth Work-Friendly Approaches across Governance Fields

- **Rebecca Romes:** Research  
Associate at Competence  
Centre Youth-Check.



The workshop discussed how youth-friendly approaches can be promoted across all relevant governance and policy fields and how other areas can benefit from participatory standards in the youth field. They explored how the idea of adopting a 'youth check' across legislation of all governance fields in Europe could contribute to raising awareness of their impact on young people. They also looked at what youth work-friendly approaches in this and other contexts could look like?

### Research and Practice-based Decision-making in Youth Policy

- **Lana Pasic:** Youth Research and Policy Officer, EU-CoE Youth Partnership.
- **Prof Lieve Bradt:** Promoter-Co-ordinator of the Youth Research Platform and Professor of Social Pedagogy, Department of Social Pedagogy and Social Work, Ghent University, Belgium.



The workshop explored the potential of a systematic and vivid exchange and dialogue between policy, practice and research and how it needs to be further developed and promoted. The workshop also explored which supportive measures in legislative, programmatic, strategic and participatory terms are needed from the perspective of policy, research and practice to strengthen knowledge-based and practice-informed decision-making in youth policy.

### Growing Youth Work

#### A Basic Youth Work Offer at the Local Level

- **Jelena Stojanović:** Executive Director at NAPOR – National Association of Youth Work Practitioners, Serbia.



Here they explored how quality youth work opportunities should be available to all young people who request or desire it. They explored how a comprehensive youth work offer at local level is a key factor to reach this aim

and looked at what this basic offer should be and the conditions that are needed to realise it. They also looked at which strategies and measures are needed to expand youth work provision, including the value of mapping exercises and targeted approaches in rural areas.

### Quality Youth Work for All Young People

- **Ahmet Sinoplu:** Head of Coach e.V. Cologne, Germany.
- **Stefan Manevski:** Education Advisor, Youth Department, Council of Europe.



This workshop started with the principle that the provision of youth work should be open to all young people in their diversity; this includes specific and socially excluded groups or those in vulnerable situations. The workshop acknowledged that in reality equal and fair access to youth work is often still not granted and therefore, specific strategies, measures and methods are needed to involve young people facing access barriers. They looked at successful inclusive youth work approaches and how such synergies can be achieved between different stakeholders.

### Strengthening European and International Youth Work

- **Reet Kost:** Deputy Director of the Estonian National Agency for Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps programmes.
- **Christina Gerlach:** Head of Department for International Youth Policy Co-operation, International Youth Service of the Federal Republic of Germany.



The contributors shared about how European and international youth work promotes democratic values and active citizenship as it supports young people in developing attitudes, competences and skills needed in a globalised world. They posed the following ques-

tion, which the participants discussed; How can European and international youth work be strengthened through European programmes and how through integration in local youth work?

### Resources and Good Conditions for Youth Work

- **Nikos Papakostas:** Co-founder of Inter Alia.
- **Assoc. Prof Lasse Siurala:** Adjunct Professor at the Aalto University, Helsinki and Lecturer of youth work at Tallinn University.



This workshop explored why youth work needs sustainable and secure structures, sufficient financial resources and good framing conditions. They looked at which strategies, initiatives and support measures could help equip youth work with what it needs at all levels and who could be strategic partners in this respect. They explored new ideas and initiatives, including a ‘European developmental goal of funding for youth work’.

### Strengthening the Community

#### Co-operation Structures for Exchange and Peer-Learning

- **Assoc. Prof Dr Özgehan Senyuva:** Middle East Technical University-Turkey, Pool of European Youth Researchers-Youth Partnership.
- **Judit Balogh:** Project Co-ordinator “Europe goes Local”, JINT vzw, Belgium.



The workshop started with the recognition that a common ground on youth work was achieved at the 2<sup>nd</sup> EYWC, but acknowledged that a deeper co-operation and exchange within the youth work community of practice is still needed. They looked at options for new opportunities to establish platforms for knowledge transfer, spaces for reflection, and networks for co-operation and how these can open up horizontally between various stakeholders within the community of practice.

### Future Perspectives on (Digital) Platforms for Youth Work

- **Manfred von Hebel:** Deputy Head of JUGEND für Europa – German National Agency for the EU Programmes Erasmus+ Youth in Action and European Solidarity Corps.
- **Dr Christine Bertram:** Project coordinator for the Electronic Platform for Adult Learning in Europe (EPALE) Germany National Support Service



In this workshop, they looked at how the number of (digital) platforms in the youth work sector has increased in recent years and have often boosted developments and dynamics of specific issues. However, they also acknowledged that a broad digital platform for all stakeholders in Europe is still missing. They discussed the vision to develop a new European digital platform for youth work and explored how platforms – whether classically analogue or digital – have to be set up to enable knowledge transfer and open up new ways for strategic development and synergies.

### Unfolding the Potential of Cross-Sectoral Co-operation

- **Raluca Diroescu:** Co-ordinator, Youth@Work Partnership on Youth Employability and Entrepreneurship of Erasmus+ National Agencies.
- **Dr Dunja Potocnik:** Higher Research Associate, Institute for Social Research / PEYR.



This workshop looked at the concept of cross-sectoral co-operation in youth work. They explored how crucial this is in view of many other policy areas that affect the lives of young people, such as education, employment, health, social affairs, justice, etc. They looked at what such co-operation is supposed to look like, how it can be established and sustained, and the requirements for its functioning and success.

### Increasing Research and Knowledge of Youth Work

- **Dr Tomi Kiilakoski:** Leading Senior Researcher, Finnish Youth Research Network.
- **Cécile McGrath:** external consultant of EACEA
- **Giulia Paolini:** external consultant of DG EAC



This workshop explored why the need for evidence-based youth policy and youth work practice is largely acknowledged, but knowledge of youth work and youth work research still lacks full recognition and understanding. The workshop also looked at which ideas and concepts exist for an enhanced exchange between policy, practice and research, and what is needed for a research agenda on the youth work sector.

### Collaborating for High Quality

#### Framing and Strengthening Quality Youth Work

- **Frederike Hofmann-van de Poll:** Senior Researcher at the Centre for European Youth Policy, German Youth Institute.



Here they explored how to achieve two objectives that are considered as essential for the quality of youth work: to attract young people with youth work offers and to legitimise the public to support and recognise youth work and its providers. They looked at the development of a European system for quality assurance in youth work as a framework for quality youth work and discussed how such quality systems or frameworks can be further developed, based on existing principles and practices.

### Competence Frameworks for Education and Training of Youth Workers

- **Dr Hilary Tierney:** Professional youth work educator and researcher, Maynooth University, Ireland.
- **Natalia Chardymova:** Educational advisor, European Youth Centre Budapest.



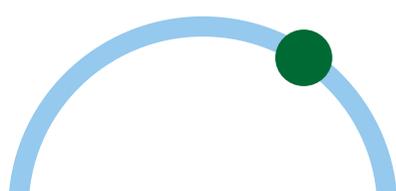
This workshop provided space for discussing how initial and continuous further education and training of youth workers should be embedded in competency-based frameworks, which reflect the various skills, competences and attitudes that youth workers need when working with young people. The workshop gave an overview of existing competence frameworks, provided insights into good practice examples of competence models and discussed how to adapt such models in education and training schemes for youth workers.

### Youth Work Promoting Democratic Values and Active Citizenship

- **Dr Filip Coussée:** Gent University.
- **Yael Ohana:** Executive advisor to the Open Society Foundations' Regional Director for Europe and founder of Frankly Speaking – Training, Research & Development.
- **Melanie Jacobs:** Deputy Director, Austrian National Agency.



This workshop looked at the promotion of democratic values and active citizenship as a key area for youth work. It also looked at how in recent years in a number of countries the spaces for civil society and for youth work particularly have shrunk along with the preconditions for fostering democratic awareness, engagement and solidarity amongst young people. They discussed how youth work in Europe can and must address politically sensitive topics and how active and critical engagement as well as solidarity among young people can be strengthened.





### Grounding Youth Work in Human Rights Education



- **Maari Põim:** Project Co-ordinator, Estonian National Agency.

Here the workshop explored how youth work continuously faces (new) challenges, in particular with regard to democratic values, social inequalities and intercultural dialogue. They looked at how basing youth work on human rights and underlying values can be an option to overcome these challenges. It was also recognised that it needs youth work (and youth workers) to be equipped with essential competences, skills and attitudes in human rights education for this to happen.

### Boosting Opportunities

#### Monitoring and Analysing Trends Relevant for Youth Work

- **Adjunct Professor Sinikka Aapola-Kari:** Research Director, Finnish Youth Research Network.
- **Sladjana Petkovic:** Independent Senior Consultant at ECORYS Policy and Research, UNICEF ECARO and EU-Council of Europe youth partnership – Pool of European Youth Researchers, PEYR.



In this workshop, they explored how youth work as a social practice takes place under social, economic, cultural and political conditions, which affect its practices as well as the lives of young people. They explored how it is crucial that youth work observes, analyses and monitors trends and developments in society and anticipates their impact on youth work. The workshop also shared which measures are already at hand, including the youth work indicators within EU reporting, and discussed which ones are still to be developed.



### Innovation in Youth Work



- **Sonja Mitter Škulj:** Co-ordinator SALTO South East Europe Resource Centre.
- **Dr Naomi Thompson:** Senior Lecturer in Youth and Community Work at Goldsmiths, University of London.



In this workshop, they talked about innovative and experimental youth work as being crucial for securing and promoting quality development and responding to the needs of young people. They also focused on the need for responding to emerging trends, developments and challenges that arise in society. The workshop emphasised that the exchange and knowledge gathering of creative, transformative and innovative youth work practices is crucial.

#### Youth Work Responding to Social, Political and Digital Challenges

- **Suvi Tuominen:** Manager, Verke – Centre of Expertise for Digital Youth Work in Finland.
- **Prof Dr Christian Spatschek:** Professor for Theories and Methods of Social Work, Hochschule Bremen, City University of Applied Sciences, Faculty of Social Sciences.



Here the contributors explored how youth work needs to respond to various social, political, cultural and technological challenges and transformations, which affect the lives of young people, including digital transformation. They posed the questions: How can the strategic development of youth work be strengthened and which concrete measures and approaches are needed to anticipate and to master current and upcoming transformations? And how can youth workers be equipped and prepared to manage such processes? The questions were discussed by the contributors and participants.

### Youth Work Engaging for Sustainability

- **Safi Sabuni:** Policy and Training Officer, Eurodesk Brussels Link.
- **Imre Simon:** Development Manager (Consultant), European Youth Information and Counselling Agency (ERYICA).
- **Tobias Thiele:** Co-ordinator for international youth work of the regional associations and local groups of Nature-friends in Germany.



This workshop talked about how the strategic development of youth work can be strengthened towards ecological transformation and sustainability. The workshop explored which approaches and measures could link ecological topics and youth work, including the potential of contributions by youth information and educational approaches.

### Promoting Youth Work

#### A Common Message to Promote Youth Work

- **Meelika Hirmo:** Co-ordinator SALTO Participation & Information Resource Centre.
- **Georg Feiner:** Co-ordinator SALTO Participation & Information Resource Centre.
- **Audrey Frith:** Director, Eurodesk.



This workshop talked about how communicating the value, process, outcomes, impact, and benefits of youth work remains a central task for youth work. It explored strategies and measures needed for the promotion of youth work, including the development of a common message by the community of practice to a wider audience. The workshop also explored how different stakeholders in the sector can use different languages to tell a common story.

### Recognition of Education and Training Pathways of Youth Workers and Trainers

- **Marcus Vrečer:** Project Manager and Trainer, International Youth Work Trainers Guild (iywt.org), coobra.
- **Rui Gomes:** Head of Division Education and Training Council of Europe, Youth Department.
- **Hanna Krämer-Erklavec:** Head of Office aufZAQ.



This workshop explored the area of education and training pathways for youth workers and trainers. It looked at how – in co-operation with the formal education sector – education and training pathways of youth workers and trainers can be formally recognised and validated, including the recognition of prior learning. It used good practices at European and national level regarding both youth workers and trainers as examples and examined what else is needed to boost the education and training of youth workers and trainers.

### Recognition and Validation of Youth Work

- **Kristiina Pernits:** Project Co-ordinator at SALTO Training and Co-operation Resource Centre, JUGEND für Europa.
- **Darko Markovic:** Facilitator, Coach and Consultant, Inn.Side – Learning and Development.



Here the contributors shared their thoughts about initiatives for better formal, social and political recognition and validation of youth work and of non-formal learning at all levels, European, national and regional. The workshop provided some insights into recent and current trends and explored which further strategies and measures are still needed to be developed and implemented.

### Advocacy Strategies for Youth Work

- **Claudius Siebel:** Policy Issues Co-ordinator, JUGEND für Europa – German National Agency for the EU programmes Erasmus+ Youth and European Solidarity Corps.
- **Līva Vikmane:** EU Institutions Co-ordinator at European Youth Forum.



This workshop explored the ways, in which the youth work community of practice can play an active role in promoting youth work by establishing adequate advocacy measures. Participants were able to develop ideas for strengthening advocacy for youth work within as well as beyond the field.

### Getting Crisis-Savvy

#### Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Youth Work Institutions and Structures

- **Andreas Karsten:** Research Co-ordination, RAY Network.



In this workshop, the COVID-19 pandemic was talked about in terms of how, among other things, it has had a severe impact on and consequences for youth work institutions and structures at all levels and has put the delivery of youth work in jeopardy. The workshop discussed both the impact of the pandemic on youth work and young people and what is needed to ensure the further existence and functioning of diverse youth work structures.

### Further Developing Smart Youth Work

- **Daisy Kidd:** Project Co-ordinator Tactical Tech.
- **Anne Kivimäe:** Estonian Youth Work Centre, ENTK Eesti Noorsootöö Keskus and Tartu University Narva College Estonia.



Here the contributors explored the need for the youth work sector to develop its capabilities and adapt to digital and technological innovations. They explored how the COVID-19 pandemic has reinforced the trend towards an increase of ‘smart youth work’. They looked at a number of issues, including the financial and infrastructure resources needed, and how the quality of digital youth work, including the competences of youth workers, can be improved.

### Reaching All Young People Affected by the COVID-19 pandemic

- **Perdita Wingerter:** CEO and project co-ordinator at ‘Gemeinsam leben und lernen in Europa’.



This workshop looked into the COVID-19 pandemic’s impact on the different approaches, methods and measures in youth work at local and regional level. They explored how the crisis interferes with the ambition to reach out to ALL young people, in particular marginalised and socially excluded groups. They discussed what the COVID-19 pandemic means in practice, particularly for young people in vulnerable situations, how youth work can address these young people and which methods and approaches are appropriate.

### Youth Work Responding to the Coronavirus Pandemic

- **Massimiliano Mascherini:** Head of Unit ad interim Social Policies, Eurofound – European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions.
- **Ashley Pitschmann:** Researcher, Youth Policy Labs.



The COVID-19 pandemic’s social impact and effects on the lives of young people was the focus of this workshop. They looked at the role youth work has to play to help mitigate such emerging challenges. The workshop explored ideas for strategies and measures for youth work that can be developed, in particular from a European and international perspective.

## Open Workshops

In the third round of workshops, eight were referred to as open workshops. The previous day participants had been informed that they could decide the content of these workshops. The only criteria was that the themes should be still connected to the Convention's thematic strands. Eight proposals were made:

### Shaping the Agenda Bottom-up and Top-down

This workshop explored how to develop and implement the Agenda as a mutual process, applying both bottom-up and top-down approaches. They looked at how the involvement of stakeholders in member States can be strengthened and how the voices of young people can be heard and anchored within the Bonn Process.

### Resources of the Bonn Process for a Variety of Stakeholders

Here they explored how resources can be allocated accessibly to all stakeholders at all levels to make the Bonn Process happen and how resourcing can generate commitment of new stakeholders and strengthen mutual links.

### Youth Work with Refugees

In this workshop the social inclusion of all young people, including those from migrant backgrounds, was explored and included how this should be a key aim of youth policy and youth work in general. They explored different ways of reaching out to such a target

group and shared non-formal education methodologies and new inclusion practices. They also looked at ways of promoting the integration and social inclusion of young migrants, refugees and asylum seekers into youth work and how to foster understanding, tolerance and respect among the different young people.

### Creating a Common 'Code of Ethics' Based on the Common Ground of Youth Work

This workshop analysed the concrete values that constitute the common ground of European youth work and what a common 'code of ethics' should look like.

### Strengthening Mental Health of Youth Workers in This Crisis

In this workshop, they explored how in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, youth work practice has changed fundamentally. They looked at the different aspects of flexibility and readiness among youth workers to improvise under difficult circumstances and what the needs are for mental health support of youth workers in this situation.

### The Role of Local Administrations and Municipalities in Supporting Youth Work Practice

Because youth work at the local level is the most important place where many young people can get in daily contact with youth work activities, this workshop explored the crucial role local administrations and municipalities must play in providing opportunities and support for youth work.



### The Contribution of Youth Work to Practicing Pan-European Solidarity

Here the workshop looked at how European solidarity is needed now more than ever. They explored the different contributions the youth work community of practice can make to keep the EU together without increasing barriers between EU and non-EU member States. They also looked at how participants from non-EU member States can seize the opportunities of the European programmes under equal conditions.

### Training, Supporting and Recognising Different Types of Youth Workers

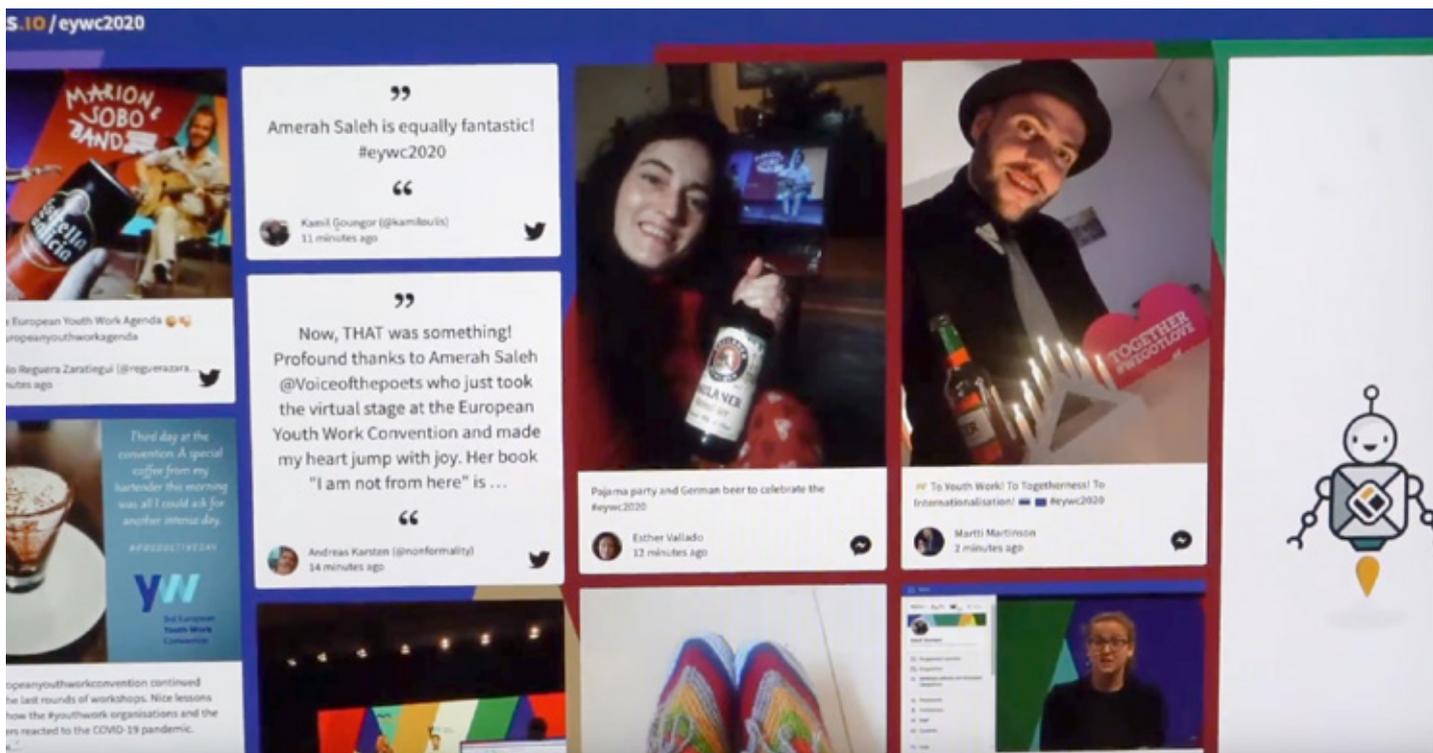
This workshop examined how different types of youth workers, paid or non-paid, volunteers and employees, those working in various fields and disciplines, can be distinguished in terms of education and training, competence frameworks, validation and recognition. It also looked at how the sector can build a competence, validation and recognition framework that would take into consideration the different situations of paid and non-paid youth workers and how this can be reflected in youth work research.

### Celebrating the European Youth Work Agenda

The evening was a celebration of having successfully come together in the digital setting and successfully kicking off the EYWA. A number of events were set up for the evening. The evening started with two poetry slam performances by Amerah Saleh from the UK and Ella Anschein from Germany. The moderators in the studio conducted a short informal interview with each of the guests.

The poetry slams were followed by live music from the Marion and Sobo Band in the studio. The evening concluded with live DJing from DJ Inge with participants dancing at home to the music or chatting in a digital ‘disco bar’.

The [Convention News](#) summarised the day.





# Day 4

Thursday, 10 December 2020

Focus	Purpose	Morning	Afternoon	Evening
<b>Committing to the Bonn Process and grand finale</b>	<b>Getting ready for the Bonn Process</b>	Preparing the Bonn Process in national and European delegations	The grand finale: Declaration and outlook	—

## Welcome to Day 4

The opening of the day was dedicated to the final day's schedule explanation. The morning was dedicated to the national and European delegations meetings up to talk about the implementation of the Bonn Process and reflect on the Convention. The afternoon was dedicated to the presentation of the final Declaration, a reaction to it from different elements of the community of practice and a closing speech by Bettina Bundszus, Head of Department for Children and Youth in the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth.

Feelings of both happiness and sadness were expressed as the Convention was coming to an end.

## National and European Delegations

The last morning dedicated time for the national and European delegations to meet to explore ongoing and future co-operation for those whom they represent. It was an opportunity for them to share their ideas and views with regards to what they believe the next steps should be and what concrete measures they could agree on to implement and support the Bonn Process.

## European Umbrella Organisations

Young people must be engaged at all levels, in this sense the role of European umbrella organisations is

more to guide and offer inputs to youth organisations at national and regional level. For having the Bonn Process really implemented, it is fundamental that young people and youth workers become the multipliers of its provision. This will allow youth organisations to hold governments and local authorities accountable. The following were some of the key points they highlighted:

- They would like to create bridges between the different actors and stakeholders, so that the Bonn Process could have a meaningful impact on young people;
- They want to see greater co-operation between the Council of Europe and the EU to continue supporting youth organisations from all over Europe;
- There was a proposal for a 'European Year of Youth Work'; something the European umbrella organisations would very much like to be a part of;
- They would like to see a system of individualised reports for each member State for recording how they implemented the Agenda;
- The Bonn Process needs a catchier title, it should have a sub-title so that it could encompass more of the youth dimension and thereby be comprehended by young people;
- Create a Key Action 3 on measuring the impact of youth work;
- Develop a national co-ordination process within one year to ensure that relevant national and local stakeholders are on board;
- Implement milestones for checking the progress of the implementation of the Bonn Process;
- Create a task force for the Agenda who would monitor / promote what happens in different countries and at different levels.



### European Institutions

As a result of their meeting the European institutions representatives voiced a desire to see the EU and the Council of Europe finding ways of working together even more closely and not just in parallel. Part of an answer for this would be with the Youth Partnership. This led to questions around how the Agenda would be institutionalised (for good or bad) and how it is going to be co-managed with young people. It was also pointed out that the process as a whole needs to be better co-ordinated. Another point was the desire to see more competency frameworks being developed at the national level to support quality youth work. Some of the key points concluded were:

- Stepping up co-operation;
- Develop the role of the Youth Partnership in the intra-institutional co-operation;
- Conduct a full mapping of the current youth work situation across Europe;
- Monitor how we implement the European Youth Work Agenda;
- Ensure representation;
- Create pilot projects in member States and use the existing tools;
- Shaping EU processes at the EU level.

The delegation from the Council of Europe specifically highlighted the following:

- Support with funding. Possibility of having a special call connected to the Agenda;
- Apply the action plans to EYWA;
- Multi-annual financing – for national delegations who want to push this forward;

- Explore ways for promoting and encouraging inter-governmental co-operation;
- The quality label youth centre project can be used as a network – information, knowledge, training;
- Promote the principle of co-management;
- Connecting the programme and education part of the youth centres to the Agenda.

### Youth Work Practice Organisations and Networks Linked at the European Level

One of the findings of this delegation group was a pleasant surprise at the extent, to which Europe takes youth work seriously and that its recognition is increasing. They recognised that lots still has to be done to connect youth work stakeholders including youth organisations across Europe.

Their vision for the implementation of the Bonn Process included the following:

- Reflect more on youth work at local and national level and make the Declaration accessible and appealing to all stakeholders including through a translation of the technical language used at the Convention to comprehensible European languages;
- Integrate and use the European Youth Work Agenda in our networks, translate it into national action plans and undertake measures and activities to disseminate the Bonn Process;
- Promoting European peer-learning and expertise exchange for the implementation of the Bonn Process – rather than overwhelming documents – via a European Youth Work Portal.



## National Agencies and SALTO Resource Centres

This delegation group dedicated time to analysing the Bonn Process from their particular perspectives as staff members of both National Agencies and SALTO Resource Centres. They gave a strong focus to their role in the implementation of the Bonn Process. Some of the key things talked about and committed to include the ongoing promotion of a European Academy on Youth Work. To support the Bonn Process they wanted to promote more clearly the different components in the EYWA that they represent; the existing programmes as sub-base, SALTO strategies, Youthpass strategy, Strategic National Agency Co-operation Projects, the Youth Partnership, NAs as international-national-local articulations and support organisations. They also want to look for better ways to reach local level youth work – not only national level. The group also mentioned connecting with the new wave of community-engaged universities and other synergies beyond the youth work community of practice, connected to this there was a recognition of the need to reach out beyond existing programmes. The training of youth workers and creating youth resources was also a high priority. A number of other aspects were mentioned, which included:

- Linking the EYWA to the Green Transition process;
- Looking to youth work digitalisation beyond the ‘using tools’ discourse;
- Developing further the recognition of youth work and its learning value;
- Promoting the values of youth work and what has been achieved by it.

The group concluded with an evaluation of the delegation process, expressing that it was a useful and productive exchange.

## National Delegations

The national delegations used the final meeting to develop ideas for implementing the Bonn Process in their specific national context and for discussing the next steps for making the Bonn Process happen in their country. They worked on the following questions:

- Are we going to meet as a delegation after the Convention?
- Who will be initiating the first steps of the Bonn Process in our country?
- What could the Bonn Process in our country look like?

- Will the delegation or its members have a specific role?
- Who should be involved in the process?
- How do we reach other actors of the youth work community of practice?

The meeting also offered space to exchange about priorities most relevant for youth work development in the respective country. Finally yet importantly, the groups used their time for a reflection on the last four days and the processes, which happened in their delegation.

## The Final Declaration

The afternoon of the last day saw all the participants gathered once again in the plenary for the ‘Grand Finale’. It began with the [presentation of the final Declaration](#), was followed by an ‘Outlook’ session on the Bonn Process, a closing speech and closing video of key moments from the Convention.



Two representatives of the drafting group, Prof Howard Williamson and Judit Lantai, expressed their appreciation to all the people who had contributed to the document, and wanted to mention each so as to give an overview of who had shaped the Declaration. They thanked the participants, as they had provided valuable inputs, as well as the rapporteurs, facilitators, the technical team, the organisers, and the German Presidency.

Howard compared the process with the Wizard of Oz. The 1<sup>st</sup> Convention was the heart (diversity), the 2<sup>nd</sup> was the brain (common ground), and the 3<sup>rd</sup> is courage. The dog Toto was compared with youth work as something that takes on many roles: guides, accompanies, etc.

But “no fairy tale is complete without a villain”, and the ‘wicked witches’ were represented as the crisis, mental health, Covid-19, youth unemployment, discrimination, intersectorality, climate change, and so on. There will always be emerging challenges that youth work will need to tackle.

Both Judit and Howard presented the content of the Declaration, which they had subtitled ‘Signposts for the Future’.

The main topics of the Declaration are:

- Develop and expand the youth work offer;
- Quality development;
- A common direction for the youth work community of practice;
- Beyond the youth work community of practice;
- Promotion and recognition;
- Innovation and emerging challenges;
- Policy frameworks;
- A strategic framework for youth work development.

The drafting group had made good use of a number of quotes from different people during the Convention; the quotes were used as a guide to the content of the Declaration. The opening section started with the quote; “Do not ask what the Bonn Process can do for us, but what we can do for the Bonn Process”, the following section talked about how it is the moment to take action and create this development.

They called on the whole youth work community of practice to take action, and not to leave the Bonn Process as an illusion, and they called on the European institutions to make the process happen and not to forget to put young people at the heart of it.

The moderators announced that the Declaration was already published on the Convention platform and on the Convention website.

## Outlook on the Bonn Process

*“You paved the way to the Bonn Process, youth work in Europe is in good hands”, — Bettina Bundszus*

A number of speakers took over, all referencing the Declaration and the Bonn Process, and in many cases committing the work of their organisation or institution to it. The speakers were representing different aspects of the youth work community of practice. They were:

- European implementers – Group of researchers, NAs, European Youth Forum;
- European institutions – Council of Europe, European Commission;
- National delegations – National ministries;
- National delegations – Youth workers, national youth councils, municipalities, trainers.

## European Implementers



- **Hans-Georg Wicke:** JUGEND für Europa, German National Agency for the EU programmes Erasmus+ Youth and European Solidarity Corps.
- **Andrea Casamenti:** Board member of the European Youth Forum.
- **Cristina Bacalso:** Pool of European Youth Researchers.

### Hans-Georg Wicke

As a representative of the network of National Agencies and SALTO Resource Centres, Hans-Georg shared the following thoughts for the next steps. He reinforced that the EU youth programmes will continue to be crucial for the provision, practice and development of youth work across Europe. Regarding engagement and co-operation with partner and associated countries, he mentioned that the new programmes would open up for European co-operation beyond the borders of the EU and CoE member States. The NAs and SALTO RCs will reinforce their contribution to the development of youth work and the Agenda and try to link the Bonn Process to the opportunities in the programme. They will also focus on facilitating the recognition of learning.



### Andrea Casamenti

Andrea assured the participants that youth organisations in Europe are excited and ready to help shape the Bonn Process – “we have the most passionate and reliable ally on our side”.



### Cristina Bacalso

Cristina highlighted the need for a European Youth Work Research Agenda. She noted that research helps measure the magnitude of young work, so it can be assessed and evaluated. It can also help demonstrate the impact of youth work on young people. She emphasised that research is not just about the creation of academic papers, it is very much about programme evaluation and the results of consultations. Participatory action research puts young people at the centre and can help address the needs of policy makers supporting them in making the best-informed decisions.



### Matjaž Gruden

Matajz shared that youth work is especially important in a climate where there is a surge of “nationalist, racist and backward-looking policies”. He congratulated the activeness of the international institutions and highlighted that now it is the turn of the national authorities to become a part of this team’s efforts to advance youth work in Europe. He also highlighted the importance of a collaborative and transparent process, sharing responsibilities between decision-makers and young people through co-management.



### European Institutions

- **Florenca Van Houdt:** Head of Unit ‘Youth, Volunteer Solidarity and Traineeships’, Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture, European Commission
- **Matjaž Gruden:** Director of Democratic Participation, Council of Europe.



### Florenca Van Houdt

Florenca stated that the EU strategy is already pointed towards the importance of youth work and for investing in youth work. She shared that the EU Council of Ministers has recently adopted a resolution with a political agenda to support youth work in the future. In the new multiannual financial framework it is hoped that the Erasmus+ programme budget will nearly double, which can be used to invest in capacity-building and tools for recognition as well as refining and improving current tools and instruments.



### National Delegations – Ministries

- **Bettina Bundszus:** Head of Department for Children and Youth in the German Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth.
- **Marialuisa Silvestrini:** Department for Youth Policies and the Universal Civic Service, Youth Ministry, Italy.
- **Marcel Marin:** Head of Youth Department, Ministry of Education, Culture and Research, Government of Republic of Moldova.



### Bettina Bundszus

Bettina commented that building on the bridge between the two German presidencies (EU and Council of Europe), Germany is going to keep working towards prioritising youth work at the European level, putting it high on the agenda. The Resolution of the EU Council and the Convention are a great starting point.



She remarked that ‘Human Rights Day’ is the perfect date to conclude the Convention and focus on youth work. Germany will use the Declaration to continue having youth work at the top of the European agenda, and not have it as just a beautiful document. The effort to make it visible started with the Convention, the Bonn Process aims to ensure visibility. Its outcomes will be taken further; indeed, it will be linked to the Youth and Children Congress, hosted in Germany in 2021.



Germany, as an initiator, will engage actively in promoting and implementing the Bonn Process. 2021 will see the first steps with the establishment of a European youth network that will support the Declaration and the process.

#### Marialuisa Silvestrini

Marialuisa expressed satisfaction with the large participation in the Convention and said that she considers this already an important success. Following this event, the Italian Ministry of Youth plans to promote the Youth Act – the first document of its kind in Italy that includes youth work recognition.



She also mentioned plans to create a youth work community of practice, including youth workers, trainers, policy makers, the Italian National Youth Council, and RAY. They are also planning to set up a national action plan that will include the Bonn Process. Within it there will be elements supporting the recognition of non-formal learning and quality youth work, and the role and recognition of youth work.

#### Marcel Marin

Marcel commented on the multilateral dialogue that has been established by the Convention. He felt that it will



support the success and implementation of the Bonn Process and that all stakeholders have an important role in ensuring the Agenda's goals are met. He went on to encourage everyone to ensure a quality implementation of the Agenda.

He stated that there is a clear understanding of the importance in developing national tools and strategies to implement the Bonn Process. He shared that the main challenge as he saw it was in raising awareness of and recognising the importance of youth work, “many people know but few people understand”.

He committed Moldova to contributing to the development of youth work; he said this had come about because of discussions from within the national delegation at the Convention and that there is an interest to further support co-operation between all stakeholders. Considering the impact of the pandemic, the Moldovan Government is interested in developing strong mechanisms adapted to the needs of the youth sector, related to digitalisation, and inclusivity.

He closed by saying that Moldova is committed to a strong Bonn Process and is fully aware of its importance. “This is just the beginning.”

### National Delegations – youth workers, youth councils, municipalities, trainers.



- **Branimira Penić:** Croatian Youth Network.
- **Janez Jani Majes:** Vice President of the National Youth Council of Slovenia.
- **Hans Migchielsen:** Vice-chair Intercity Youth, stakeholder representing international, regional, local level, Netherlands.
- **Alexandre Fonseca:** Trainer, Portugal.

#### **Branimira Penić**

Branimira identified three key areas where youth workers could play the most important role: building structures for youth work; co-operating within and beyond the field of practice; and the promotion and recognition of the Bonn Process. She asserted the importance of passing now to a more vocal phase, within and beyond the youth work ‘bubble’.



#### **Janez Jani Majes**

Janez shared his hope that “stakeholders understand that youth workers are key in achieving a better society with young people”.



#### **Hans Migchielsen**

Hans expressed that he was happy with the final Declaration, and could see how it would be useful in initiating the preparations for the 4<sup>th</sup> European Youth Work Convention. He urged for the creation of a five-year young people and youth work plan in every European country. He wants to see this involving municipalities as well as European programmes and projects.



#### **Alexandre Fonseca**

Alexandre referred to the importance, in the present time, of supporting mentorship; he stated that this was essential for young people and youth workers. He also mentioned the importance of escaping the egos and personal agendas.



## Closing Statement

- **Bettina Bundszus:** Head of Department for Children and Youth in the German Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth.



Bettina reminded the participants in her [closing statement](#) of the ten years of dialogue brought by the European Youth Work Conventions. She underlined how special it was to have so many different participants from across Europe with different backgrounds and expertise, all working together.



She mentioned how important youth work is in the numerous challenges Europe is facing presently. Bettina stated the desire to keep the momentum going by already initiating the preparations for the 4<sup>th</sup> European Youth Work Convention in 2025. She highlighted the need for a co-ordinated approach at the European level, but also at national level, assuring that all will be done to assure the proper articulation at European level. She closed the main part of her speech by emphasising that we need to be creating alliances, so that all the stakeholders can stand behind the Bonn Process.

She offered a huge thank you to everyone involved in the Convention, especially considering the innovative full-digital setting.

## Closing Video

The actual ending of the Convention was done digitally with the sharing of a video that covered key moments from the four days of the Convention featuring participants, contributors, speakers, and staff: [3<sup>rd</sup> EYWC – closing film](#).



The [Convention News](#) summarised the day.



## Appendices

The following appendices to this report on the 3<sup>rd</sup> European Youth Work Convention can be found in the [‘Convention resources section’](#) of the Convention website:

- A: Programme overview
- B: The thematic strands of the European Youth Work Agenda
- C: Staff
- D: List of participating countries
- E: Market Place workshop descriptions
- F: Summary reports of plenary sessions and workshops



# Imprint

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