

**7-10 December 2020**

**The digital Convention**

### Context

At the end of 2020, five years after the last European Youth Work Convention (EYWC) and during the German EU Council Presidency and the German Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe (CoE), the 3<sup>rd</sup> European Youth Work Convention will take place. It will be hosted by the German Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (BMFSFJ). It follows on from two previous Conventions in Belgium, in 2010 in Ghent and in 2015 in Brussels. Since then European Youth Work Conventions have been a major event for the youth work community of practice in Europe.

About 1.000 representatives of the youth work community of practice from 50 countries all over Europe will come together for more than three days in the 3<sup>rd</sup> EYWC. This includes youth work stakeholders at local (including municipal), regional, national, and European level. It involves youth workers and youth work organisations, trainers and their pools and representations, ministries and civil servants responsible for youth and youth policy, researchers and educators of youth workers, European institutions and National Agencies for the

European youth programmes, and young people and youth representations.

The general objectives of the expert congresses as a central platform for discussing the latest developments in youth work practice and youth policy have been to acquire new insights and transfer knowledge, enhance the visibility of youth work and its value, and promote joint action within the youth work community of practice.

After the 1<sup>st</sup> EYWC had addressed the diversity of opportunities, actions and experiences in youth work in Europe and their appreciation, the 2<sup>nd</sup> EYWC identified a common ground of all youth work in Europe. The final declaration called for a European Youth Work Agenda (EYWA).

### A unique opportunity

The upcoming 3<sup>rd</sup> EYWC from 7 to 10 December 2020 will play a crucial role in establishing this European Youth Work Agenda as a strategic European framework for further developing and strengthening youth work practice and policies and shaping youth work development across Europe. The 3<sup>rd</sup> EYWC as a kick-off event for the EYWA will bring together the youth work community of practice in Europe to be inspired by keynote speeches, workshops, plenary discussions and much more to look at the



current challenges and needs of youth work and discuss the framework conditions of quality youth work in Europe. It will provide information about the EYWA, shape the content of the EYWA, develop recommendations for the implementation of the EYWA in the coming years, create ideas for activities within the implementation of the EYWA, and launch national processes and measures. It will also enable and exploit synergies between all stakeholders and levels involved, and create commitment, ownership and co-operation.

The EYWA addresses the aims of implementing the European Youth Work Agenda in the Bonn process as a strategic framework for the development of youth work in Europe; establishing youth work as an essential part of youth policies; ensuring and expanding the provision of youth work; and strengthening the common ground of youth work through co-operation within and beyond the youth work community of practice. It also seeks to support the further development of quality youth work; support the ability of youth work to tackle emerging challenges and innovate its practices; and enhance the promotion and recognition of youth work. It also wants to ensure a strong role for youth work in the new normal.

Both the 3<sup>rd</sup> EYWC and the EYWA are opportunities to be supported by all and their surrounding processes to be shaped together. There is something in them for the whole youth work community of practice in Europe. All stakeholders are invited and encouraged to jointly strengthen youth work and get involved. The 3<sup>rd</sup> EYWC aims to provide guidance and inspiration for implementing the EYWA with a final declaration – a groundwork document by the youth work community of practice, which will be

written during the Convention. Developments within the wider youth work community of practice in the member States and at European level are planned to be fed into shaping the 3<sup>rd</sup> EYWC.

The Convention also presents the unique opportunity to bring the co-operation between the stakeholders in the European Union and the Council of Europe to the next level. The EYWA is planned to be established during the German EU Council Presidency. At the time the 3<sup>rd</sup> European Youth Work Convention takes place in December, it overlaps with the German Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the CoE. The fact that delegations from all EU and CoE member States are invited reflects not only this opportunity for their co-operation in the Convention but also good prospects to implement the EYWA in all these countries afterwards.

## Contact

The German Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth is responsible for the German Presidency and Chairmanship activities in the field of youth. It is supported by JUGEND für Europa, the National Agency (Germany) for the EU programmes Erasmus+ Youth in Action and European Solidarity Corps.

For more information, please don't hesitate to get in touch with the project team of the 3<sup>rd</sup> European Youth Work Convention at JUGEND für Europa at [convention@jfemail.de](mailto:convention@jfemail.de).

Please also refer to our website at [www.eywc2020.eu](http://www.eywc2020.eu) to keep up to date with next steps and developments.