



GROWING YOUTH WORK IN EUROPE – THE EUROPEAN YOUTH WORK AGENDA AND THE BONN PROCESS IN THE CONTEXT OF THE EU PROGRAMMES ERASMUS+ YOUTH AND EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY CORPS

A PRACTICAL GUIDE FOR BENEFICIARIES



One or several of the statement/s express/es aspects of your work and projects?
Great! This practical guide has some very interesting information for you.

INTRODUCTION

This practical guide aims to inform you about the European Youth Work Agenda (EYWA) and the Bonn Process and how they can benefit your work and your projects. It is considered relevant and interesting for all beneficiaries and applicants active in Erasmus+ Youth as well as for youth work organisations and actors active in the European Solidarity Corps¹.

If your time is limited, you will find a summary of the most relevant information in the very first section. However, we recommend taking the time to read all the following sections of the document.

THE MOST IMPORTANT INFORMATION IN A NUTSHELL

1. The European Youth Work Agenda and the Bonn Process in two sentences (see part 1 for more details):
 - The European Youth Work Agenda is a strategic framework, which aims to develop and strengthen youth work. It is unique in its strong European political commitment and gives tailwind to all those active in the youth work field and thus also to young people and their situation.
 - The Bonn Process is the implementation of the EYWA and a common European response to the fragile situation of youth work. With its eight priority areas, it gives structure to the efforts across Europe.
2. The European Youth Work Agenda can benefit your work as an argumentation aid and lobbying tool, for networking, to boost your visibility, and to increase the relevance of your projects (see part 2 for more details).
3. To find links between your project topic or your chosen project format and the European Youth Work Agenda, you can make use of the eight thematic priority areas of the Bonn Process (see part 3 for more details).

¹ Acknowledging that the programme is also used by other actors of engagement and solidarity work, not originating from youth work as such.

PART 1: UNDERSTANDING THE EUROPEAN YOUTH WORK AGENDA AND THE BONN PROCESS

This chapter explains what the European Youth Work Agenda and the Bonn Process are.

What are the European Youth Work Agenda and the Bonn Process, and why are they so important for the field of youth work?

Youth work is currently facing many challenges across Europe. Whether it is the lack of skilled workers, the mental health of young people and professionals at risk, or the lack of financial resources or recognition of youth work – existing systemic challenges have been exacerbated by the pandemic, and youth work structures have been further shaken in many countries. You are probably experiencing or maybe even struggling with some of those challenges yourself, like many youth organisations across Europe.

The European Youth Work Agenda provides a framework for youth work actors to address these challenges together across Europe. Its central aim is to boost youth work and further strengthen and develop youth work practice in Europe.

If you are interested in some political context:

The European Youth Work Agenda is politically embedded in the Resolution for a framework to establish a European Youth Work Agenda from 2020 (https://www.bonn-process.net/downloads/publications/28/e8c9e4c87451bec342dcdca8a5ef9d28/Resolutions_Council_uriserv_OJ_C_ENG_EN_TXT.pdf). It is a major milestone for youth work in Europe in terms of the importance the political level gives to it.

The European Youth Work Agenda is a strategic framework, providing strong political commitment and tailwind for all those active in the youth work field and thus also for young people and their situation.

The European Youth Work Agenda comprises different elements:

- *a political basis anchored in the European strategies in the field of youth of both the EU and the Council of Europe with a strong commitment to creating synergies and close co-operation at European level,*
- *the engagement of the youth work community of practice,*
- *the process of implementing the Agenda, called the 'Bonn Process', which is shaped by the engagement of the youth work community of practice.*



The Bonn Process is the implementation of the European Youth Work Agenda. A framework alone does not bring about change – it needs stakeholders, who act and put the framework into practice.

The Bonn Process is guided by a vision for youth work in Europe. It wants to lead to a future, in which youth work is recognised, visible, innovative, future-fit, and well-resourced. In this future, youth work is accessible to all young people in all their diversity through quality youth work activities. It is appreciated as a valuable

contributor to a democratic, social, sustainable, and peaceful Europe.

The Bonn Process wants to lead to a future, in which youth work is recognised, visible, innovative, future-fit, and well-resourced.

To achieve this, the Bonn Process has been initiated as the joint effort of all stakeholders involved in youth work around Europe at practical level, at policy level, in research, and in education to

move forward towards this vision. It is a common European response to overcome the current systemic challenges in the field.

The Bonn Process is a common European response to the fragile situation of youth work.

The Bonn Process has several priority areas, giving some structure to all the common efforts:

- 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, and
- a strategic framework for youth work development

Those eight areas are your entry point to connect your work to the European Youth Work Agenda and benefit from it (see part 3).

PART 2: WHAT IS IN IT FOR YOU?

This chapter explains how the European Youth Work Agenda and the Bonn Process can benefit your work.

The European Youth Work Agenda can benefit your efforts to develop your own practice, boost your important topics or contribute to youth work development at local, national, or European level in different ways.

You can actively make use of the European Youth Work Agenda and the Bonn Process...

...as an argumentation aid and lobbying tool: Communicating your own projects as part of a Europe-wide politically supported process can be a useful lobbying tool and support your own efforts in a local, regional, or national context.

...for networking: Increase your opportunities to exchange ideas with other stakeholders, gain inspiration from European initiatives and learn from other projects, e. g. by participating in events linked to the Bonn Process.

...to boost your visibility: Linking your project to the Bonn Process can support your visibility through being a project example at events or feeding into communication channels around the Bonn Process. Practice examples are collected step by step to feed into such formats and inspire others.

...to increase the relevance: Within the formats of the EU youth programmes, the eight thematic priority areas can provide guidance on identifying current important topics in youth work, defining a project topic, and making it specific in its aims and its contribution to youth work development. This is especially (but not exclusively) valid for Key Action 2 projects.

To add some more indirect and long-term benefits for the bigger picture:

The efforts of the whole community of practice (researchers, practitioners, policy makers, ...) to further boost and develop youth work, will (in the mid- and long-term) impact on the frameworks, policy guidelines, etc. shaping youth work and the spaces of youth work.



For example, if the field succeeds in generating Europe-wide attention and visibility of the positive impact that youth work has on society, this should positively affect all youth work actors by being better recognised at local level, getting more funding, etc.

As you can see, the Bonn Process as such is not something new that is happening in addition to the EU youth programmes. Rather, it (re-)frames the aims and actions of the EU youth programmes and links them to a greater joint effort.

The EU youth programmes are the funding tools available to the community of practice at European level to put the efforts into reality: By working on improving the quality of youth work, supporting the training of youth workers, giving a voice to young people, or achieving the recognition of youth work – your project contributes to bringing the European Youth Work Agenda to life in order to boost youth work in Europe.

The EU youth programmes play a vital role in the implementation of the European Youth Work Agenda.

In that sense, make use of the benefits listed above by building on this natural link and formulating how your work feeds into these common efforts!

PART 3: SOME PRACTICAL TIPS TO ESTABLISH LINKS BETWEEN YOUR PROJECTS AND THE EUROPEAN YOUTH WORK AGENDA

This chapter provides you with practical material for establishing links between your project (idea) and the Bonn Process.

There are several ways to look for links between your project and the European Youth Work Agenda. Here are some recommendations for you:

The topic of your project is already more or less clear or even set? Great! Then you can look for links to the eight thematic priority areas in the following first overview, which showcases possible concrete topics and measures within each area.

Download: <https://www.bonn-process.net/downloads/media/99/437ff5f7a99da78fea109589a172c868/The-eight-thematic-areas-of-the-Bonn-Process.pdf>

If you prefer, you can also start from the programme and format of your project. The following document visualises the link between the eight areas of the Bonn Process and the objectives of each action as described in the programme guides as well as the horizontal priorities. It showcases the most obvious connections (without claiming to be final; many other connections are possible).

Download: <https://www.bonn-process.net/downloads/media/76/8db7b5a1fbe57a0d468152b729a00855/Programme-priorities-in-the-eight-thematic-areas.pdf>

You are looking for some further aims and efforts expressed by the community of practice you can link your project to?

In this case, you are advised to read the Final Declaration of the European Youth Work Convention 2020 “Signposts to the future” (https://www.bonn-process.net/downloads/publications/2/89567f5ed19ce0dc9732a4415bc256fd/3rd%20EYWC_final%20Declaration.pdf%22%20/h). This document describes possible actions that were jointly developed by the whole youth work community of practice in 2020. Does your project relate to any of the ideas and/or contribute to the aims

described in one of the priority area sections? Does the project support the intended developments described?

MORE INFORMATION

Looking for further information on the European Youth Work Agenda and the Bonn Process? Have a look at the Bonn Process website (<https://www.bonn-process.net/>). It is gradually filling with news articles (<https://www.bonn-process.net/news/>), describing examples of practices around Europe that can always be a source of inspiration. It is also the place to check for upcoming activities that can be interesting for you to network or discuss and develop your ideas with others. The website also contains additional materials, such as factsheets, in the resource section (<https://www.bonn-process.net/resources/publications/>).

NOTES ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THIS GUIDE

This practical guide for beneficiaries was jointly developed by 16 National Agencies and SALTO-YOUTH Resource Centres in the strategic co-operation project of the network of National Agencies “Strengthening youth work in Europe by supporting the implementation of the European Youth Work Agenda” (SNAC EYWA).

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