



Youth Social Rights Network



COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Youth Social Rights Network¹

Study Session “Youth Work OUT – Together for all young people”

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

Deadline to apply: 27 January, 2018

1-6 April, 2019

European Youth Center Budapest

The study session is organised in cooperation with the Youth Department ² of the Council of Europe

¹ Youth Social Rights Network – www.ysrnetwork.weebly.com

² Youth Department of the Council of Europe - <https://www.coe.int/en/web/youth>

Introduction

The Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers have recently adopted a recommendation for member states on youth work (2017)³ that clearly states that effective cooperation between youth work providers and various sectors where young people are involved is vital. Furthermore, there should be an awareness of equal access policies for youth. The cooperation and awareness will ensure that youth work is further developed and can meet the diverse needs of young people.

CM/REC (2017)⁴ focuses on the importance of cooperation among actors working with youth, particularly between formal education and youth work, between public authorities, private sector and the civil society. Bearing in mind the importance of cooperation, **the Youth Work OUT study session will contribute to setting up cooperation between youth work providers and the other sectors who are active at the local level and working with all or specific groups of young people (e.g. social care representatives, schools, municipalities, representatives of various crime prevention programs, institutions of state youth care system, etc.)**. Aside reinforcing cooperation between youth support professionals, the study session will support the strengthening of the human rights-based approach in youth work, which contributes to creating possibilities for the advocacy of the rights of all young people, particularly those who are at risk of exclusion and discrimination.

The Youth Work OUT study session will particularly look into how to develop and put in practice a coordinated approach towards youth work, meanwhile also ensuring young people's access to rights. Specifically, it will support the development of good practices on how youth work can contribute to the improvement of the access to rights of young people. The study session will equip participants with competences on how to reach out to the most isolated young people, who are mostly not visible for mainstream activities and how to empower them through using human rights-based approach in youth work. The composition of participants will allow youth workers to access the communities where youth work is not yet presented and the need for such kind of intervention is expressed by the other professionals (school representatives, social care representatives, municipalities, etc.).

The experiences shared by the members of the Youth Social Rights Network has shown that **Youth workers often lack competences** to work directly with young people and it is challenging for them to outreach all young people, particularly the ones who are at risk of exclusion and experience discrimination or live in disadvantaged neighborhoods due to lack of resources and capacity.

Youth workers also often **lack competences to create partnerships** with other stakeholders working on local level with young people, in order to use their experiences for working directly with young people (especially with young people experiencing disadvantages).

The same concern is expressed by the **young support professionals**– the social workers, psychologists, representatives of Municipal services, school staff members, crime prevention center workers, etc.

³ Recommendations on Youth Work - <https://rm.coe.int/1680717e78>

They often lack capacity and time to enable young people to be empowered in order to claim and exercise their rights. In most cases, the young support professionals don't even know that the support they need to work on youth competence building, is recognized as "youth work".

On the other hand, there are youth centers, youth organizations; youth clubs which provide **youth work services but lack competences on how to outreach the young people who need the empowerment** the most and how to use human rights-based approach in their activities.

Considering the realities of young people and the experiences of youth workers and other young support professionals, the YSRN in cooperation with the Youth Department of the Council of Europe will organize the study session "Youth Work OUT – together for all young people " in response to the above-mentioned challenges.

Aim and objectives

The aim of the study session is to strengthen the human rights-based approach to local youth work in order to support young people in claiming, exercising, defending their rights and encourage active participation in the community life, by empowering professionals working in the field of youth.

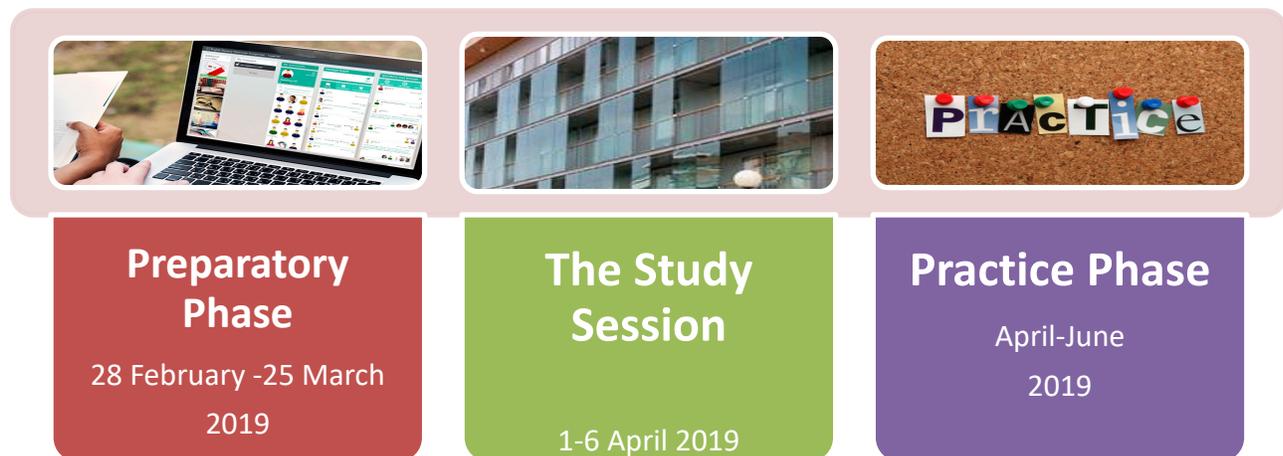
The study session has the following objectives:

- To support the development of competences of those providing youth support, for human rights-based youth work programs and outreaching young people, particularly those at risk of or experiencing marginalization or exclusion.
- To ensure and strengthen cooperation between different actors who support access of young people to rights, including on one hand youth workers and on the other hand formal education representatives, social care system representatives, crime prevention institutions, etc.
- To promote youth work, especially in the structures and institutions where it is not yet presented (social work practices, formal education, child care institutions), as a tool to increase the interest and involvement of different groups of young people to active citizenship at local level.
- To support participants in reflecting on existing and developing new youth work practices, which will contribute to the improvement of the access to rights of young people, and by this supporting the implementation of Council of Europe recommendations at local level (particularly the Recommendations on youth work and young people's access to rights)

Quality criteria for human rights-based youth work

In order to achieve the study session objectives Youth Social Rights Network will facilitate the process of creating a document with quality criteria for human rights-based youth work with special empathy on cross-sectoral cooperation, bearing in mind the diversity of the systems in various Council of Europe member states. Quality criteria will have a form of a guideline with principles and indicators and will be created in close cooperation with the participants during the study session. It is expected that participants will use the guidelines in planning their follow up activities locally. It will serve as an important tool for not only the participants but also other youth workers and youth organizations who would like to present human rights-based youth work in their organizations or to other structures where youth work is not yet presented. It will highlight the forms of youth work, which doesn't require significant resources and which can be piloted by the interested institutions such as: mobile youth work, digital youth work, etc. A month after the study session, the final version of the quality criteria will be shared with all the participants, and also with the wider public through Youth Social Rights Network

The study session consists of three elements. Participation in each element is mandatory.



1. **Preparatory phase** will require 1-2 hours of involvement per week and will focus mostly on mapping the realities of young people in the communities participants are coming from.
2. **Study session** is a 6 days long residential activity and the main event of the whole process. Participants will leave the study session with developed 1-2 months human rights based youth work program to be implemented in the local communities.
3. During the **practice phase** participants will implement local human rights based youth work program based on the draft quality criteria for the rights based youth work and will receive continuous educational support by the facilitators' team of the study session.

The profile of participants

Due to the nature of the activity we will **only be accepting applications in pairs**. The pairs should be composed of:



One Youth worker and one Youth Support Professional - other than youth worker, representative of the institution which works with young people who are at risk or experiencing exclusion and marginalisation (for example social care structures, prisons, municipal services, schools, VET education institutions, sports organizations, business sector, etc.).

The pairs should be motivated and interested to plan a 1-3 months human rights-based youth work program and implement it in the local community. Preferably both youth worker and non-youth worker participants should come from the same community but exceptions can be made with youth workers who are willing to travel to the community where non-youth worker participant is from. Pairs should bear in mind that they need to take care of funding all the costs related to the practice phase initiatives or apply for funding to relevant foundations. YSRN will provide pairs with educational support on writing project proposals. Pairs should be supported by their organizations when it comes to participating in all phases of the study session. Applicant pairs applying from disadvantaged neighborhoods will be prioritized. Candidates working on specific groups of young people in segregated systems (orphanages, probation institutions, centers for disabled young people) and are motivated to offer young people the possibility to participate in activities with other young people are encouraged to apply as well.

Example I:

Ben is a youth worker and works for the Youth Association „Be Happy“, Aleksandra is a social worker and works at the Municipal Social Service, her main target group is young people who are under state care. Ben explains to Aleksandra how youth work can support the empowerment of young people she works with. Ben also suggests that they can work together on developing a youth work program for the young people under the state care. They are both motivated but need support to make it happen. Ben and Aleksandra decide to apply in pair to participate in the study session „Youth Work Out“.



Example II

Maria works at the social service agency supporting newly arrived migrants. She found out about the call for applications for „Youth Work OUT“. She is extremely interested to take part so she finds the local youth center called „The star“ and asks them to cooperate in order to introduce youth work in her work with youth with migrant backgrounds. She teams up with Zoe from the Youth Center and they start to to prepare the application together.

Profile of the Youth Workers

Youth Worker Participants should:

- ✓ Be supported by the organisation (youth NGO, youth service, youth center, etc)
- ✓ Have an understanding of youth work principles as well as basic youth work methodology
- ✓ Have an experience in working with youth at local level
- ✓ Be motivated and able to carry out practice phase activities with his/her pair
- ✓ Have experience in working directly with young people and/or for young people.
- ✓ Have a strong willingness to cooperate with the youth support professional and work with the marginalised groups of young people
- ✓ Be able to participate fully in all phases of the study session (preparatory, residential, practice phase)
- ✓ Be 18-30 years old (with possible exceptions)
- ✓ Be able to work independently in English
- ✓ Come from one of the Council of Europe Member States ⁴

Profile of the Youth Support Professionals (other than Youth Workers)

Non-Youth Worker Participants should:

- ✓ Be supported by the organisation (municipal services, schools, churches, business sector, social services, etc.)
- ✓ Directly work with young people at risk or experiencing exclusion and discrimination (young people under state care, young people with disabilities, young people with mental health issues, young people working on the streets, etc.)
- ✓ Have a strong willingness to integrate youth work within his/her work with young people
- ✓ Be motivated and able to carry out practice phase activities with his/her pair
- ✓ Have experience in working directly with young people and/or for young people.
- ✓ Be able to participate fully in all phases of the study session (preparatory, residential, practice phase)
- ✓ Be 18-30 years old (with possible exceptions)
- ✓ Be able to work independently in English
- ✓ Come from one of the Council of Europe Member States

⁴ Member states of the Council of Europe - <https://www.coe.int/en/web/about-us/our-member-states>

Youth Social Rights Network welcomes applications from all candidates who fulfil the profile of the participants irrespective of gender, disability, marital or parental status, racial, ethnic or social origin, colour, religion, belief or sexual orientation.

When, Where, How... some technical details

Place

The study session will take place at the European Youth Center in Budapest, Hungary. (www.eycb.coe.int)

Travel

Travel costs will be fully reimbursed. You will be asked to present the tickets and other supporting material **(original invoices, original receipts, in the case of e-tickets documentary evidence of the sum actually paid e.g. copy of credit card slip, copies of visas, boarding pass (both ways))**

Participation fee

All participants are required to pay a participation fee of 50 euros. The fee is deducted from the refund of travel expenses.

Board and Lodging

Board and lodging will be provided and covered by the Youth Department of the Council of Europe at the European Youth Center Budapest. Participants will be accommodated in double rooms.

Visa

Participants who require visa to travel to Hungary will be supported by the invitation letter. Visa costs will be reimbursed.

Language and dates

Official language of the study session is English. Dates of the study session are 1-6 April, 2019 excluding arrival and departure. Participants should arrive on 31 March and depart on 7 April, 2019.

Application procedures and deadline

The pairs should send their applications through the online application form - <https://goo.gl/forms/H0UgE1Saih9hgi7r2> no later than **27 January, 2019**.

Information session – Info session will be organised for the interested applicants where all the questions related to this call will be answered. The session will take place live on the FB page of the YSRN (<https://www.facebook.com/youthsocialrightsnetwork/>) on **17 December at 13:00 pm** Central European Time. Study session INTRO video can be accessed through here - <https://youtu.be/KdNLhPI87-l>.

Pairs will be notified on the selection results **by 3 February, 2019**. Shortlisted pairs might be invited to the Skype interview. In total 15 pairs – 30 participants will be selected to participate in the study session.

In case of questions please contact the study session team – ysrnetwork@gmail.com

We wish you good luck in filling out the application form. Hope to see you in Budapest!