

Membership

23 Members

6 Affiliated organisations

3 Cooperating organisations

Targets:

Expand the network with 2 new organisations

Working Group to revise membership benefits and fees

Management & Communication

- General Assembly 2015
- 4-5 Governing Board Meetings
- Approval Statutes and Standing Orders
- Revision of Director's Handbook
- 4 Newsletters
- Revision communications strategy
- Preparation of ERYICA's 30th Anniversary



Strategic Directions



The five **Thematic Priorities** of ERYICA for 2015 are linked to the four **Strategic Directions** identified in the Strategic Plan 2015-2017.

These **priorities** will be addressed through activities, projects, events and close collaborations with our stakeholders.

Thematic Priorities 2015

1. Enhancing training activities
2. Promoting mobility and E-participation
3. Approaching the formal education sector
4. Cooperating with African youth information workers
5. Renewing ERYICA's communications strategy

Thematic Priorities 2015

1. Enhancing training activities

ERYICA aims to be a leading actor in developing, supporting and promoting quality generalist youth information policy and practice at all levels. To achieve this goal, ERYICA will continue enriching and maintaining its **training system** and its **pool of trainers** in order to keep on supporting members in attaining a high level of quality and professionalism.

In 2015 the existing modules will be revised keeping in mind new trends in the youth information field, new technologies, and the different situations in member countries. In order to enhance **training to trainers** and **training activities**, ERYICA will submit **Erasmus+** project proposals to enlarge and enhance the trainers' pool and to further disseminate and overview existing training courses. ERYICA will also take part in the training sessions organised by the **Youth.info** consortium, whose outcomes will be shared with the network.

ERYICA will continue promoting the existing expertise within the Agency more efficiently by performing a more detailed **mapping of trainers** and **enhancing the added value** of the network. To achieve this objective, ERYICA will support the establishment of an active network of trainers, which will allow the creation a database of experts and trainers.

2. Promoting mobility and participation

In 2015 ERYICA will continue supporting activities and projects aiming to promote and encourage **mobility of young people**, and to better understand youth mobility patterns in Europe. Some of the mobility-related activities foreseen for 2015 include the exploitation of the **YoMIM** project results, the preparation of project proposals building on the outcomes of YoMIM, and the participation of ERYICA in the Horizon 2020 project **MOVE**.

In terms of **participation** and empowerment, ERYICA will start collecting projects in this area that are currently being implemented by our members. In order to ensure an effective exchange of good practices and standards, the examples collected will be shared in **Sheryica** and a Sheryica publication will be prepared in 2016. The emphasis will be on different tools and methodologies, i.e. e-participation, mobile apps, micro-funding for youth initiatives, peer-to-peer activities in the field of youth, media and information literacy, etc. This will be combine with the **collection of material** from our members on participation and empowerment which can be related to various aspects, such as mobility, employability, no hate speech, inclusion, etc.

As far as **e-participation** is concerned, together with the EUth consortium, ERYICA will explore new opportunities and technologies for encouraging the online participation of young people in decision-making processes. The future e-participation platform developed under the **EUth project** might be added to the **Digital YIntro** training course as a session, during its content update. In line with this, ERYICA will also looking into the possibility of joining another European research project on democratic participation and social innovation.

ERYICA will take part in events and trainings addressing mobility of young people and e-participation, such as the **#BePart** seminar organised by De Ambrassade and the **European Platform on Learning Mobility** in the Field of Youth backed by the Youth Partnership between the Council of Europe and the EU.

3. Approaching the formal education sector

Apart from strengthening our cooperation with our traditional partners and stakeholders in the youth policy arena, in 2015 ERYICA will work to find synergies and avenues for collaboration with the **formal education sector**. Non-formal and formal education are considered critical and complementary sectors that open up opportunities for lifelong learning and which support the successful development of young people.

The establishment of systems for the **recognition and validation** of all forms of learning, and in particular non-formal learning, has become one of the central themes in all sectors of education and training. It is also a matter of priority for the European Commission, the Council of Europe, and the UNESCO. For example, the recognition of non-formal learning has been integrated in the so-called **Bologna Process** – the process driving forward major higher education reforms across Europe.

The focus of ERYICA this year will be on **establishing contacts** with higher education institutions, schools, European networks of universities and secondary education representatives, and other related institutions with the aim of exploring **common denominators** and possibilities for collaboration. The establishment of a more structured cooperation with the formal education sector will not only encourage **mutual understanding** and learning, but will also enhance a more efficient dialogue towards the recognition of non-formal learning and the work of youth information professionals. In the case of higher education institutions, a closer collaboration could also help link youth information practitioners and **researchers in youth policy**.

4. Cooperating with African youth information workers

Following the success of the **Summer University (SU)** in 2014 that brought together youth information workers from 9 African countries and 10 European

countries, ERYICA will explore more synergies between the youth information sector in Europe and its counterparts in Africa. An interesting spin-off of the SU is the creation of EAYICA, the East African Youth Information and Counselling Agency, which has been inspired by ERYICA. To this aim, the Agency will continue developing collaborations with the **North-South Center** and seize the momentum created by the SU to explore possible ways of cooperating with African youth information workers and organisations, and to support initiatives like EAYICA.

In order to establish a more structured cooperation with our sector in Africa, this year ERYICA will submit a project proposal under **Erasmus+** involving some African partners and ERYICA members. ERYICA will also explore possibilities for funding other cooperation activities with this part of the world offered by some international organisations such as the **UNESCO**, the **African Union**, and the **Union for the Mediterranean**.

5. Renewing ERYICA's communications strategy

Effective communication is key for the ERYICA membership to stay updated and interested in the Agency's activities. It is also indispensable for promoting ERYICA and its members externally and for maintaining the Agency's position as a key stakeholder in the European and international scene.

This year ERYICA will explore new ways to smooth the path of the **information flow** between the Secretariat and the members, and the Agency and its external stakeholders and potential new members. With the spread of social media and new online tools, communication channels are multiplying. This is why, without forgetting from traditional means such as mailings and newsletters, ERYICA will explore different **communication channels and tools** that may better suit the needs of the Agency. In this context, a new **communications strategy** will be designed with the support and feedback received from members. Several methods such as **questionnaires** and targeted **interviews** will be used in order to gather information from members and users of ERYICA services.

Activities under Strategic Directions



1. Quality and Training

Activities

- Organisation of **training activities and courses** for the network and its trainers, and in countries where ERYICA is not represented;
- Development of **innovative training methods** such as webinars, job shadowing, and staff mobility activities;
- Revision of **training material** and development of new material;
- Creation of an active **network of ERYICA trainers** and a **database**;
- Promotion of the existing training material such as the **Compendium** and the **Info-kit** in countries willing to establish youth information and counseling services and where ERYICA has no representation;
- Development of contacts with the **formal education sector** in view of setting up **common trainings**; and
- Participation in training activities of our **stakeholders and partners**.

Projects

Youth.info – Erasmus+

Duration: 01/03/2015 – 30/06/2015

Coordination: Creativitas

Partners: Luxembourg, Portugal, Lithuania, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Estonia

Aims:

- Improving quality of youth information work and expand the variety of methods used to deliver youth information and counseling services.

- Providing youth information workers with competences needed for motivating, organizing, facilitating and mentoring peer-to-peer groups in youth information and counseling work.
- Empowering youngsters to recognize information needs of their peers and provide them with skills to implement different informing and counseling activities.

Role of ERYICA: to contribute to the process with the know-how and experience in the network, to provide input and guidance; to disseminate the final product; optionally to build on it and develop it further.

Project Proposals

YoMIM Training to Trainers – Erasmus +

The YoMIM training course was developed in the frame of the YoMIM project and it aims to train youth information workers specifically on the information needs of mobile young people. Following a successful pilot of the course, this Training to Trainers will aim to exploit the outcomes of the YoMIM service, to disseminate and adapt the content of the course already developed, and to involve the new and more trainers from the ERYICA trainers pool. Different training methods and modalities will be explored.

Youth Information Trainers' Seminar – Erasmus+

Following the first initiative that took place in Helsinki in May 2014, this seminar will provide an opportunity for ERYICA trainers to meet, network and develop their methodologies further, while checking the state of art of ERYICA training materials. The long-term aim of the event is to create an active network of trainers in youth information and to establish innovative training methods.

YoMIM II - Erasmus+

The project will aim to broaden the network of YoMIM Centres and Guides and to explore and disseminate further the outcomes of the YoMIM project. This includes the concept, the training, the app, and the know-how acquired, with special focus on the quality guidelines titled Quality Management in Youth Information and Counselling.



2. Research & Innovation

Activities

- Support the development of **innovative services** and the use of new ICT in order to meet the needs of young people;
- Collaboration with **Pool of European Youth Researchers** (CoE-EC Partnership);
- Identification of **researchers** on youth policy through dialogue with research institutes and higher education institutions;
- Dissemination of **research findings** affecting the youth information and counselling sector; and
- Participation in **research projects** and **project proposals** dealing with youth policy and addressing the Strategic Directions and Thematic Priorities of ERYICA.

Projects

MOVE – Horizon 2020

Duration: 01/05/2015-01/05/2018

Coordination: University of Luxembourg

Partners: Luxembourg, Germany, Spain, Hungary, Romania and Norway

Aims:

Providing a research-informed contribution towards an improvement of the conditions of the mobility of young people in Europe and a reduction of the negative impacts of mobility through the identification of ways of good practice thus fostering sustainable development and wellbeing. The main research question is: How can the mobility of young people be ‘good’ both for socio-economic development and for individual development of young people, and what are the factors that foster/hinder such beneficial mobility? Six types of mobility addressed in this research: higher education, voluntary work, employment, vocational training, pupil's exchange and entrepreneurship.

Role of ERYICA: Dissemination of research outcomes



3. Participation & Empowerment

Activities

- Contribution to the activities organized by the **EUth** consortium;
- Participation in the **#BePart seminar** organised by De Ambrassade, which aims to map the e-participation projects and experience available, as well as to reflect on developing a training course in this field;
- **Collection of projects** and **training material** on participation and empowerment from our members;
- Participation in the **No Hate Speech Movement** meetings and support of the new campaign on this topic that will be launched by the Council of Europe;
- Contribution to the preparation of recommendations on **young people's access to rights** drafted by the Council of Europe and promotion of the **Kit on Access to Rights**;
- Involvement of **young people** in the governance of the agency; and
- Organisation of a call for **Youth Ambassadors**.

Projects

EUth – Horizon 2020

Duration: 01/05/2015-01/05/2018

Coordination: Nexus - Institute for Cooperation Management and Interdisciplinary Research

Partners: 11 partners from 8 European countries

Aims:

EUth will build a digital European youth participation platform to be tested and put at the service of administrations and youth organizations of any size and level to set up participative processes. EUth will increase the trust of European youth in Europe and political institutions by making European youth participation more attractive for all involved actors and thus make it happen more frequently

Role of ERYICA: Dissemination of the platform and organization of an Open Call for 10 European municipalities and local youth organizations to implement independent participation strategies in the testing phase.

4. Policy & International Relations



Council of Europe

Administrative Arrangement 2015

- Promotion of **Info-kit and Compendium**, especially in countries where the youth information field has its sprouts but faces challenges and countries where there is an intention to launch youth information and counselling services.
- **Regional Training** in Georgia

Location: Tbilisi

Duration: 2,5 days

Date: 1-3 December Promotion of **Info-kit and Compendium** 2015

Aim: finding synergies between governmental and non-governmental actors in the field of youth policy in order to promote the establishment of quality youth information and counselling services and structures.

Collaboration: ERYICA, Council of Europe, Ministry of Youth, Municipality of Tbilisi - Youth Department, and Creative Development Center.

Countries: Georgia, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Turkey, Moldova, Ukraine, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, Bulgaria.

Number of participants: 30 participants + 6 ERYICA trainers and staff.

Profile of participants: 10 Governmental representatives (one per country), 15 Youth information workers/representatives from youth information structures, 5 NGOs/CoE advisory board representatives.

Participation in:

- CDEJ meetings
- JCC meetings
- 2nd European Youth Work Convention 2015 and Steering Group Meetings
- No Hate Speech Campaign follow-up group meetings
- Draft Recommendation on Young People's Access to Rights Meetings
- European Platform on Learning Mobility meetings and conference
- Policy reviews
- Meeting with Director General for Education and Youth
- Dissemination activities of CoE initiatives and publications

European Union

Participation in:

- Erasmus+
- Horizon 2020
- Call for Operating Grants 2016
- EU Youth Conference of the Latvian Presidency
- EU Youth Conference of the Luxembourgish Presidency
- European Parliament Committee dealing with youth policy
- EU policy consultations

Stakeholders

- Organisation of a **3-Networks meeting** (EYCA, Eurodesk, ERYICA)
- Participation in events of **Eurodesk**
- Participation in events of **EYCA**
- Participation in events of **YFJ**
- Participation in **Europe+** events and mutual promotion
- Participation in the GA of **UNICA** (Network of Universities from the Capitals of Europe)
- Establishment of contacts with **other stakeholders** at the European and international level.

International Organisations

ERYICA will explore opportunities for cooperation and funding with UN organisations dealing with youth policy issues such as **UNESCO** and **UNICEF**. For instance, the Agency could aim to participate in the 9th UNESCO Youth Forum 2015 or to support initiatives such as UNICEF's Voices of Youth.

The Agency will also explore the project funding opportunities offered by the **Union for the Mediterranean**, which supports international projects involving countries in the southern Mediterranean. Among others, they support initiatives dealing with mobility, education, employability, social affairs and women empowerment.

ERYICA will investigate the prospects of collaboration and fundraising within the **African Union**, namely, the Agency will look into possibilities for funding a project aiming to support the youth information and counseling sector in the continent, and to ensure the sustainable creation of national and international youth information structures such as EAYICA, the East African Youth Information and Counselling Agency.