



Biennial Conference

'From good to better: Enhancing quality in learning mobility in the youth field from cross-sectoral perspective'

23-25 January 2018 (TBC), France

Call for two Facilitators

Deadline for applications: **20 August 2017 23:59 CET**

Youth Partnership

Partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the field of youth



What are EPLM conferences?

The EPLM provides a network for the exchange and cooperation of researchers, policy makers and practitioners dealing with learning mobility in non-formal and informal learning as well as in formal education. As part of its actions, the EPLM implements projects such as conferences bringing together actors in the field of learning mobility, and develops publications. These actions not only support exploring the topic of learning mobility, but also aim at generating links to other relevant policy discussions in Europe.

The mission of the EPLM is to engage in the improvement, knowledge, visibility and recognition of learning mobility in the youth field.

By learning mobility we mean transnational mobility undertaken for a period of time, consciously organised for educational purposes or to acquire new competences or knowledge. It covers a wide variety of projects and activities and can be implemented in formal or non-formal settings.

Following the EPLM's structure, the conferences bring together researchers, practitioners, volunteers, policy makers, institutions and organisations working on the topic of learning mobility in the youth field. The conferences take place on a biennial basis and tackle a series of topics previously defined by the EPLM's Steering Group and are based on the outcomes arising from the previous conferences.

Conference 2018 - concept

Title

From good to better: Enhancing quality in learning mobility in the youth field from cross-sectoral perspective.

Dates and place

23-25 January 2018 (TBC), France.

Context

The biennial EPLM conference takes into consideration the realities that young people are facing in their everyday lives. It acknowledges that learning mobility does not take place in a bubble detached from socio-economic realities. The quality of this link is crucial – not only for the present state of affairs, but also for shaping the future.

Our democratic societies are founded on, and continue to evolve further, the principles of human rights, peace and liberty, democracy, equality and the rule of law through a unique way of living together. The Europe in which we live is going through changes, and the field of youth work and learning mobility is evolving as the socio-political and economic realities shift. Young people in general constitute one of the most vulnerable segments of society. The EPLM believes youth work and learning mobility can play an important role in

supporting young people when facing external shifts and their own transitions. Learning mobility specifically, and youth work in general, contribute by strengthening the values that are fundamental to live and prosper together. Mobility can be seen as a transformational practice in a world where global interconnectedness and universal values are becoming more and more part of contemporary identities and sense of cultural and social belonging. The EPLM acknowledges the individuality of each young person and their associated needs and directions, thereby respecting the diverse motivations for, and learning paths through, mobility.

In order to address the current social, political and economic situation, different institutions are developing a range of tools, instruments, policies and programmes to address the needs and support today's societies, including young people who are affected profoundly. Unless a quality dimension is envisaged and ensured within learning mobility, these programmes will not only fall short of meeting today's expectations and needs, but will also fail to contribute to a positive future for young people. It is essential to remember that youth work is not a simple fix for all the issues of today, but is an important building block for a better future.

Approach

The Conference will have a dynamic approach, allowing for maximum interaction between participants from different sectors. It will support open dialogue, mutual understanding of all those involved, and allow for different actors in learning mobility in the youth field to meet and learn from the respective experience at grassroots level.

We will observe current and future trends. The points of view from a diverse range of socio-political and economic actors will be incorporated with the aim of providing answers to current challenges and of anticipating the opportunities that go also beyond the youth work field.

The currently developed [quality framework in learning mobility in the youth field](#) will foster positive learning outcomes from the mobility undertaken by young people. The testimonies and research-based evidence will allow for a better understanding and comparison of different aspects of quality in learning mobility, hence enhancing it.

An inclusive approach at the conference will ensure higher accessibility of the content, as well as support for those who might not otherwise have been able to participate.

The conference

The conference intends to explore youth learning mobility from the perspective of *policy and support, cross-sectoral cooperation, and research*. It will also continue to give a prominent space to the dimension of inclusion in mobility projects. The conference aims at sending a political message on the benefits of quality in learning mobility for young people.

The 2018 conference revolves around the issue, and subjective term, of quality in learning mobility. The concept of quality will be addressed in a transversal manner throughout the event. By raising awareness of subjective interpretations of various stakeholders and from different sectors, and elaborating the benefits for each, it will shed light on good examples of practice that can accompany the other elements of the [quality framework in learning mobility in the youth field](#) and other tools for quality in learning mobility.

Cross-sectoral cooperation will be approached from both conceptual and practical perspectives. It will include exploring why we need this approach, what the benefits and pitfalls are, what the youth field offers that can be in the interest for other sectors (and vice versa). The conference will address the need for better recognition of the respective strengths and limitations of formal and non-formal education, looking beyond youth policy. The conference will also take a closer look at cross-sectoral cooperation at local, regional, national and European levels. The event will explore the mutual learning benefits of the cooperation and ways of enhancing it in the close future are.

Inclusion remains a priority of the EPLM at large. The 2018 conference will look at the inclusion as an intrinsic dimension of mobility and how it is articulated before, during, and after the mobility project.

Research will constitute a prominent dimension of the conference, and youth researchers will meet prior to the conference in a one-day seminar, to explore the topic(s) of the conference and identify areas for further reflection. Their conclusions will be conveyed to a wider audience during the conference itself.

More particularly, the conference intends to:

- Explore the very notion of quality of, and in, learning mobility projects;
- Work on a broader understanding of what quality means for learning mobility, from the perspective of different sectors involved;
- Continue to explore and reflect upon the dimension of inclusion in learning mobility projects;
- Channel messages from all sectors related to learning mobility to key stakeholders;
- Improve the cross-sectoral cooperation in learning mobility in the youth field;
- Advancing the work on the framework of quality in learning mobility in the youth field;
- Further reinforce the awareness of the special role and identity of the youth field, of its contribution and added value in the context of learning mobility.

Target group

The conference will be designed to address in particular young people and policy makers, but also other stakeholders representing:

- [Youth] Policy
- Youth work
- Vocational training
- Schools

- Higher Education
- Adult Education
- Social work
- Employment
- Research
- Decision makers, especially at local level

The intention to involve other sectors is not only meant to support a broader understanding of the benefits of learning mobility in the field of youth, but also to explore with a wider audience what quality means in learning mobility projects.

The conference looks at convergences of approaches while valorising differences and specificities of all actors.

Format / structure of the conference

Based on the evaluation of the previous conferences, the **format** of the 2018 conference will be as follows:

- A two days and half meeting;
- One day for research (researcher seminar) prior to the start of the conference;
- Workshops, working groups, case studies, research studies, keynote speeches, inputs, testimonies, life stories, etc.

Special features that will support the conference:

- Use of social media (through tweet wall and other means);
- Pictures and short movies (little films of what happened during each day);
- Graphic recording and live reporting.

The **methodology** will be as participative as possible. It will be a mixture of methods (plenary, group work, personal reflection, etc.) with presentations that will be appropriate in length and sufficient time will be allocated for enriching exchanges and discussion. The workshops and the working groups will be facilitated. Sessions in plenary will also be interactive. Encounters between representatives of different sectors will be fostered.

What is the desired profile?

We are looking for 2 facilitators to join the preparatory team composed of representatives of the coordination office of the EPLM (the EU-CoE youth partnership), the National Agencies of Erasmus+/YiA of Turkey, France and Germany, and other members appointed by the Steering Group of the EPLM.

The desirable competences and characteristics of the facilitators are as follows:

- Be experienced in facilitating large-scale events implemented at European level;
- Have a very good knowledge of learning mobility in the youth field;
- Be familiar with the principles and values of non-formal learning;

- Be used to work with different groups of stakeholders;
- Have an excellent level of English.

What type of facilitation are we talking about?

The facilitation will include facilitating plenary sessions and possibly some workshops. The tasks also include actively contributing to the overall preparatory process, which may also involve briefing facilitators of individual working groups and their rapporteurs (in cooperation with the general rapporteur).

What are the conditions?

Fee

1200 EUR will be offered to each of the facilitators.

Requirements for the two facilitators

1. Presence at the preparatory meeting in Brussels: 7-8 September 2017;
2. Preparation of the methodology in cooperation with the other facilitator and the in communication with the prep team;
3. Presence at one day of the meeting of the Steering Group of the EPLM, during which discussions on the next biennial conference will take place: Brussels, 28 September 2017;
4. Availability to be present during the entire duration of the Conference (2 days and a half 23-25 January 2018);
5. Co-facilitation during the conference.

The fee, and the corresponding contract issued by the EU-CoE youth partnership, covers the points 1, 2. and 3. from the list above. Subject to agreement of the two partner institutions for a partnership agreement in 2018, an additional contract will be issued for the conference in 2018.

Travel and subsistence

Travel and board and lodging-related expenditures for the preparatory days and the whole duration of the conference will be fully covered.

How to apply?

To submit your application, please send your CV and a one-page maximum cover letter to the address davide.capecchi@partnership-eu.coe.int **no later than 20 August 2017 at 23:59 CET**.

Any question?

For more information, do not hesitate to contact Davide Capecchi at the EU-CoE youth partnership: davide.capecchi@partnership-eu.coe.int

[Berlin, Germany, 2013](#)

The first conference of the EPLM - ***Mobility Spaces, Learning Spaces - Linking Policy, Research and Practice*** - took place on 20-22 March 2013 in Berlin. It resulted from an initiative supporting a broad networking of experts in the frame of the European Platform on Learning Mobility in the Youth Field.

The conference tackled the six priorities of the EPLM, as defined back then:

1. Linking youth work and learning mobility
2. Facilitating learning mobility for all and in diversity
3. Providing information and guidance
4. Competence and training
5. Ensuring quality and recognition
6. Impact, learning transfer and evaluation

[Istanbul, Turkey, 2015](#)

The second conference of the EPLM - ***Learning mobility in the youth field: towards opportunities for all. Evidence, experience, discourse*** - took place in Istanbul on 7-9 October 2015. The focus of the discussions was on opportunities for all or, put in another way, the inclusion of those with fewer opportunities in learning mobility projects. Hence, it was about mobility as a tool for inclusion, exploring to which extent the mobility schemes are inclusive.

In addition to the transversal themes of learning mobility in the youth field and inclusion, a series of sub-themes were developed. They were not only based on the EPLM's position paper and on its related activities (conferences and thematic meetings) but also took into consideration the Recommendations of the Council of the European Union on 'Youth on the Move' – promoting the learning mobility of young people (28 June 2011) and the Erasmus+ Inclusion and Diversity Strategy in the field of Youth:

- Impact (evidence, experience, and testimonies);
- Recognition;
- Motivation for learning mobility;
- Information and guidance on opportunities for learning mobility;
- Quality of learning mobility; and
- Support structures.

For more information about those two conferences: <http://pjp-eu.coe.int/en/web/youth-partnership/european-platform-on-learning-mobility>