



Call for members for the Europe Goes Local Steering Group

The Europe Goes Local (EGL) network project is open to receive expressions of interest from European NGOs engaged in local level youth work to join its Steering Group for the 2025-2027 period.

The background of Europe Goes Local

Youth work and policies at the local level are increasingly recognized across Europe by the EU, the Council of Europe as well as the Member States. The 2017 Council of Europe Recommendation on youth work emphasizes supporting quality youth work within national, regional, and local policies. The European Youth Strategy 2019-2027 highlights youth work's role in developing key competences like teamwork, leadership, and problem-solving. The European Youth Work Agenda acknowledges youth work as a unique field, fostering non-formal and informal socialization.

EGL actively supports and contributes to these goals within the European framework. Since its establishment as a Strategic National Agencies Cooperation project in 2016, Europe Goes Local (EGL) has become a platform for cooperation and learning in European youth work. It has engaged a broad audience and gained visibility and recognition in the field. EGL organizes numerous activities, both virtual and physical, to facilitate learning, exchange, and networking.

The vision of EGL

A democratic society needs the voices and active participation of young people. In order to fulfil this role, young people need a place where they can set their own agenda. A space where they, together with their peers, can explore, articulate and develop their interests and talents, as well as their ideas for the future. A space where they get stimulation and support to further develop the knowledge, skills, attitudes and values they need in order to reach their full potential as individuals and citizens. Youth work is this space, and young people are, and must always be, its primary stakeholders. Youth work is a win-win investment, and for a society that strives for inclusion and social cohesion, youth work has an important role to play. This has been stated in many major policy documents from both the European Union and the Council of Europe.

Youth work is, however, characterized by its rich diversity. The vast majority of youth work has its starting point and takes place at the local level. Our vision is that all young people have access to youth work provisions everywhere at local level in Europe, based on a common ground and the same guiding principles as they are laid down in the European Charter on local Youth Work, supported by youth work policies and strategies embedded in the different local realities.

The mission of EGL

The mission of Europe Goes Local (EGL) is to continue to provide a European cooperation platform for capacity building in local youth work policies / development and as a service for the promotion and development of calibrated youth work policies, strategies, provisions and quality measures at local level through European cooperation, based on the principles of the European Charter on local Youth Work, hence to contributing to a basic youth work offer and to support social change in youth work in Europe and to foster everywhere in Europe the access of all young people to quality youth work.

The aims of EGL

Based on the mission of EGL to offer a European cooperation platform for the promotion and development of youth work policies, strategies, provisions and quality measures at local level, the following aims have been defined:

1. Foster the development of and the promotion and advocacy for youth work policies at the local level as part of municipal youth policy, based on the principles of the European Charter on Local Youth Work.
2. Build capacities of actors being responsible and/or engaged in the development of youth work policies at local level by building a community of practice as a place to create links, exchange experiences, build knowledge, enhance collaboration, support documentation and monitoring of youth work, provide information, tools and material.
3. Provide tailored approaches, support, training, information and counselling for youth work actors at local level to successfully engage in European co-operation and to make use of the opportunities of Erasmus + and/or the European Solidarity Corps.
4. Contribute to the development of youth work policies within the European Youth Strategy, the European Youth Work Agenda and the Bonn Process, the initiatives following the Belgium Presidency and recommendation of the Council of Europe on youth work by linking the European and the local level and creating synergies or complementarity between the different initiatives.

Key impact strategies

EGL has identified several impact strategies. Their aim is to transfer the vision and mission of the project the most effectively and concretely under the existing circumstances into the reality of local youth work in Europe and to support the desired social change. In the idea of the theory of change these impact strategies are intermediate outcomes EGL is aiming to achieve the ultimate impact at local level.

The key impact strategies are the following:

1. Promoting the principles of the European Charter on local Youth Work
2. Strengthening a community of practice of actors in local youth work policies
3. Offering spaces for exchange on a European platform
4. Nurturing a European dimension by making use of the EU Youth programmes
5. Developing calibrated national approaches and activities
6. Embedding EGL in the European Youth Work Agenda and the Bonn Process
7. Building on the NAs and SALTOs as intermediate bodies in EGL
8. Pursuing the collaboration with stakeholders at all levels
9. Building knowledge about the realities of local youth work development and policies

The EGL-offer

As a platform, EGL offers a number of different activities and tools to support the EGL community of practice in their engagement and they are building elements of the key impact strategies of the project. Both the European and national/regional offers are constantly updated and shared via a yearly activity plan within the network.

The European EGL-offer

EGL offers a set of activities as a common initiative and effort of all implementing members, including the National Agencies and the international partner organizations. These offers are commonly created and agreed upon and implemented according to jointly set guidelines. These activities are open to all interested local youth work stakeholders in every member

country, including the neighbouring partner countries. The European offer is either carried out and steered by the European Coordination or by any implementing partner.

The national and regional EGL offer

The implementing National Agencies and regional SALTO Centres create tailored national and regional offers, closely supporting the local youth work community of practice in their respective countries or regions. These plans are defined and actions implemented together within stakeholder cooperations. The action plans are communicated in the network on a regular basis.

Structures of the project

The project is steered by two structures, the Steering Group and the Advisory Board. The member National Agencies, SALTO Centres and organisations appoint their representatives to participate in the Europe Goes Local structures.

Steering Group

The Steering Group has 10-11 members. It consists out of 4 National Agencies, 4 European umbrella organisations plus the Chairpersons of the Steering Group and Advisory Board. The membership is also open to regional SALTO Centres which may fill the 11th post in the Steering Group. If a SALTO Centres does not express their interest to join the Steering Group, the 11th post remains vacant. The European Coordinator is always present at the meetings of the Steering Group to support the implementation of the meetings.

The Steering Group is chaired by the Chairperson.

Members of the Steering Group are also members in the Advisory Board. Structures and members of the Steering Group are published on the Europe Goes Local website.

The membership in the Steering Group is voluntary based and unpaid. Members of the Steering Group should

- take part in the meetings (with a precondition that the date of the meeting is known three months in advance and with the exception when unforeseen events or circumstances occur which do not allow the member to be present)
- participate actively in the meetings, contribute to the discussions and tasks if the Steering Group decides to divide tasks amongst its members
- join the meetings of the Advisory Board and the yearly EGL event themselves or send somebody else to represent their organisation.

The Steering Group is responsible for

- setting the overall strategy, principles and structural framework of the project
- establishing the priorities and thematic directions based on the monitoring and mapping results
- approving the yearly workplan of the European activities
- endorsing the yearly budget
- approving the financial report on European activities
- approving the concept of the yearly European event

The Steering Group meets at least once a year in-person, preferably in May-July. This timing allows to draw conclusions about the actual project year that ends in June and to set priorities for the upcoming year. When it is necessary, online meetings are organized between the on-site meetings.

The costs that relate to participation in meetings and events (travel costs, board and lodging) are fully covered by the project.

The profile of potential member organisations

European umbrella organisations which:

- support/enhance youth work development
- provide advocacy / information / training / knowledge-building / networking for local youth work providers (NGOs and/or municipalities)
- represent municipalities and have a thematic focus on youth work and youth policy among other topics

Organisations are invited to express their interest via: <https://form.jotform.com/250895188217063> at the latest on the 18th of April.

After the evaluation of the expressions of interest the decision about the member organisations will be taken by the Chairperson of the Steering Group (the director of the hosting National Agency of the European coordination of the project), the Chairperson of the Advisory Board and the European coordinator of the project. Every organisation that submitted an expression of interest will be notified by the 30th of April.

The first meeting of the renewed Steering Group is foreseen to be held in Brussels in June 2025.

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