



## Concept note

### Context

The role of municipalities in developing local youth work is recognized more and more by policy makers. The latest milestone on the journey of local youth work development is the policy paper<sup>1</sup> launched by the Belgian EU Presidency which states:

*'By investing in a robust and long term local youth work policy, based on intense dialogue and participation, local governments create concrete conditions for the optimal development of local youth work. Therefore, municipalities need a framework that gives contours and inspiration to create tailor made sturdy local support systems.'*

The next planned highlight for European youth work is the upcoming 4th European Youth Work Convention (May 2025) which will again put youth work recognition on the European policy agenda.

With the European EGL Event in 2025, Europe Goes Local, as a platform for municipal level youth work stakeholders, intends to support municipalities in developing a comprehensive, knowledge-based youth work policy and provide a channel for municipalities to make their voice heard in the European policy discussion through a joint input for the upcoming Convention.

### Intentions

- Facilitate knowledge building and exchanges on local youth work policy development, with a particular focus on how European youth programmes can contribute to its improvement and enhancement.
- Highlight successful long-term practices and project processes that have significantly influenced local youth work policy development.
- Foster in-depth discussions and exchanges about inspiring practices, emphasising their systemic and practical applicability to diverse local contexts.
- Create a platform for municipalities to convey messages to the fourth European Youth Work Convention.
- Explore municipalities' challenges and needs in accessing and using the European youth programmes and identify potential solutions.

### Focus

The event will focus on advancing local youth work policy development and exploring how European youth programs, such as Erasmus+ and the European Solidarity Corps, can support that.

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<sup>1</sup> Resolution of the Council and of the representatives of the governments of the Member States meeting within the Council on youth work policy in an empowering Europe (C/2024/3526)



More specifically, the conference will explore the following sub-themes:

- **The role of the European Charter on Local Youth Work:** Using the Charter as a framework for describing the principles and outcomes of successful local youth work policy development.
- **Knowledge transfer:** Exploring how existing knowledge, experiences and good practices can be translated into or transferred to practical, local-level initiatives.
- **The European youth programmes as youth work development instruments:** Explore the use of the European youth programmes as instruments for local youth work policy development, with a focus on long-term impact and sustainability.
- **Needs analysis and mapping:** What do municipalities need to support local youth work policy development? What do they need from European programmes and support structures to successfully (further) develop youth work policy and related strategies? What are the key barriers to better accessing these programmes?
- **Follow up and assessment:** How to do policy related follow up and assessment of youth work practice? How can we show that youth work delivers in accordance with policy, that policy actually guides practice?

## Participants

About 120 participants with the following profiles:

- Municipality representatives who are involved in youth work policy-development:
  - elected politicians responsible for creating youth work policy
  - municipal staff working on youth (work) affairs at the municipality
- The coordinators of Europe Goes Local within National Agencies and regional SALTO Centres.
- Representatives of local youth work organisations who actively collaborate with municipalities in creating youth work policy and strategy.
- Youth work experts who actively collaborate with municipalities in creating youth work policy and strategy.

## Format and structure

The event will include a mix of engaging presentations, panel discussions, practical workshops, and interactive peer-to-peer support sessions.

The conference will include diverse formats to ensure a dynamic engagement and knowledge transfer, including:

- **An online onboarding session:** Before the conference, an optional online 90-minute onboarding session will be organised for participants to start to get to know each other, get familiar with the programme, and with Workvivo, the online communication platform which will be used before and throughout the conference. The onboarding session will take place on the 19<sup>th</sup> of March from 10:00 to 11:30 CET.



## EUROPEAN EGL EVENT 2025

25 - 27 March, Prague

- **Plenary addresses:** Being at the opening, closing or intermediary moments, those are collective moments with minimal protocol speeches and engaging focus, to remain in tune with the practical and strategic intentions of the conference.
- **Practice presentations:** Municipalities will present projects or initiatives that focus on the development of youth work policy. Those projects, which might have received funding from European youth programmes or not, are meant to have a long-term impact.
- **In-depth discussions:** Participants will engage in parallel thematic sessions where they will explore good examples of practices in detail and discuss how to adapt them to their own local context.
- **Networking times:** Participants will share experiences and build networks more informally.
- **Support 'NA corner':** A support space during breaks where NAs can offer more guidance on accessing the European youth programmes and addressing challenges.
- **Cultural offers:** Introduction to a few local projects supported through Erasmus+ youth with musical moments in between.

### Main expected outputs

- **'Observations on the central role of municipalities in creating sustainable youth work development':** A document outlining the role, contributions and challenges of municipalities in relation to youth work, which will serve as a reference for discussions in the 4th European Youth Work Convention, with a strong interconnection with the European Charter on Local Youth Work, the European Youth Work Agenda and strategic NAs' projects such as Growing Youth Work.
- **The report of the event:** A report that summarises the thematic discussions and practices presented and underlines the collective insights of the participants, to support knowledge-building and actionable steps. This report will also contribute to highlighting the role of the European youth programmes in supporting the development of local youth work strategies and inform future policy development.