

EUROPEAN TRAINING STRATEGY

Conclusions of the European Training Strategy Advisory group on the outcomes of the 1st ETS Conference, 26-28 March 2018

European
Training
Strategy



BACKGROUND

The conclusions below - shaped as take-home messages - result from the stocktaking and exchanges that took place during the first **European Training Strategy Conference, 'The Quality Bonus'**, organised by SALTO Training and Cooperation Resource Centre with the support of JUGEND für Europa in Mainz, Germany from 26 to 28 March 2018.

The European Training Strategy (ETS) is the main strategy for the **development of quality youth work**. While its implementation began under the previous YOUTH and Youth in Action programmes, the ETS represents a major step forward in the assurance of the necessary quality and quantity of training and support measures for youth workers.

The European Training Strategy (ETS) is the main strategy for the **sharing, exploring and discussing ideas and strategies for better capacity building and quality development within youth work, through enhanced youth worker education & training**. As its base, it used the *ETS Competence Model for Trainers Working at International Level*, the *ETS Competence Model for Youth Workers to Work Internationally* and the experiences of those working with them.

The conference hosted **121 participants from 37 countries**: policy-makers in the field of youth, researchers, experts in the field of education and training of youth workers, trainers of youth workers and youth workers themselves, as well as representatives of institutional actors, including NGOs, the National Agencies of Erasmus+: Youth in Action, SALTO-YOUTH RCs and the Partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the field of youth.


From the results of the discussions and the exchanges between participants during the conference, the ETS Advisory Group drafted the conclusions below. These address mostly policy makers, stakeholders in the education and training of youth workers and trainers at the European and national level, with the purpose of **supporting the elaborating strategies, programmes and related frameworks for the education and training of youth workers in Europe**.


¹ These conclusions, or take-home messages, represent the views of the members of the ETS Advisory Group and do not necessarily represent the views or position of the European Commission.

SALTO Training and Cooperation Resource Centre www.salto-youth.net/TrainingandCooperation is in charge of the implementation of the ETS. It is part of JUGEND für Europa/German National Agency of Erasmus+ Youth in Action Programme, Godesberger Allee 142-148, 53175 Bonn, Germany. JUGEND für Europa is legally attached to IJAB - International Youth Service of the Federal Republic of Germany.

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TAKE-HOME MESSAGES

Youth workers and trainers are crucial stakeholders in the quality development of youth work projects and processes. Hence, it is important to [better] **support quality in all forms of youth work through enhancing the training and education of youth workers in Europe**. This implies a **continuous investment in the education and training of youth workers for volunteers and professionals at both the European and national levels**, and **providing regular impulses for the development of systems for the training and education of youth workers**.

As underlined in the *Council of Europe's CM Rec/2017(4) Recommendation on Youth Work*, the **development of strategies and the establishment of support systems to validate the education and training of youth workers** are central to support and sustain quality youth work in Europe. Quality implies programmes and opportunities that enhance the empowerment of young people's paths as engaged, autonomous and active citizens. In line with their role in the ETS, such developments and support systems should be reflected in the **European Agenda on Youth Work in the frame of the EU youth strategy 2019-2027 and the Council of Europe's youth sector strategy 2030**.

The **ETS** is one of the key instruments at the European level designed to improve the quality of youth work and its recognition through capacity-building in the youth field. **Investing in its further development** would safeguard the accomplishments and support the implementation of some of its tools for quality youth work, in particular **the two competence models for trainers and youth workers** and the concrete steps for the **development of tailor-made competence-based training systems** in Erasmus+: Youth in Action.

Youth work needs to be recognized, both as a form of political and social engagement as well as a profession. Education and training need to be complemented with **support mechanisms, such as mentoring, supervision, guidance or peer support** for all those dealing with **improving quality youth work across Europe** and/or the **professionalization of youth workers**.

Cooperation is key to ensuring the necessary conditions for holistic, complementary and quality youth work education and training systems. This is particularly true **between formal and non-formal education**, both within the field of youth and with other sectors. **The different actors involve policy, institutions and administrations, educational bodies, researchers, civil society actors, trainers and practitioners**. Developing and safeguarding a **European cross-sectoral platform**, as well as a **community of practice** in the education and training of youth work in Europe would support such a cooperation.

Moreover, to facilitate this cooperation and support further developments relating to the professionalization of youth work, **peer learning and peer support** in concepts and practices in the education and training of youth workers at different levels must be encouraged and supported.

Programmes such as Erasmus+: Youth in Action play a crucial role strengthening youth work as a practice and as an occupation and recognizing the status of youth workers in Europe. Actors in youth worker education should **ensure formal and non-formal learning opportunities for all youth workers to develop their competences**.

Finally, **recognizing the value and contribution of paid and volunteer youth workers and their status** compared with other occupations in the social field should be an objective of youth work policy at all levels.