



Towards an open area of
higher education in Europe:
M.A. European Youth Studies
Project

MA EYS Project – Key Points

- What kind of course are we talking about?
- Who is involved and supportive?
- Target groups, educational aims and methods, graduate prospects
- Project milestones

MA EYS Rationale

- **Young people and Europe**
 - *Transitions, directions, challenges*
 - *Institutional focus and commitment*
- **Research, policy and practice**
 - *An increasingly connected triangle*
 - *The case for 'structured dialogue'*
- **Employment and career**
 - *Responding to changing labour markets and occupational profiles*
 - *Cross-fertilisation of field experience*
- **Personal-professional growth**
 - *Raising qualification and improving recognition*
 - *Opportunity for further learning, reflection and new directions*

This is...

- a full Bologna Master in European Youth Studies (M.A. EYS)
- an integrated Europe-wide double/joint degree course
- a network of partner universities and active support from the key players at European level
- multilingual teaching and learning, transnational faculty, international student body
- distinctive:
 - no comparable M.A. course offered
 - organic links between research and practice

MA EYS principles

- belief in the importance of intercultural understanding and communication
- recognition and value attached to the prior experience and knowledge of students
- commitment to learner-centred, active and self-directed pedagogies
- appreciation of the critical contribution of young people to the future of Europe
- contribution to raising expertise and quality in the youth field as a whole

MA EYS course structure

4 semesters, F2F+virtual+residentials, 10 modules:

- 5 content modules (Theory, Policy, Research, Methods, CML)
- 2 elective modules during mobility semester (Semester 2)
- Professional Practice module (with fieldwork in mobility semester)
- Synthesis: the reflective practitioner module (bringing it all together)
- Thesis double module
- Personal-Professional Development (PPD) module to run throughout the course

⇒ 10 @ 10 + 1 @ 20 = 120 ECTS

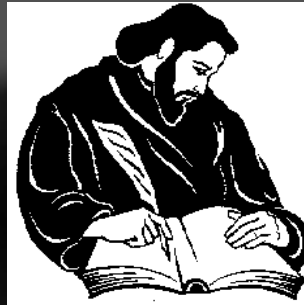
MA EYS Learning and Teaching

- blended learning
 - F2F and virtual learning
 - traditional and innovative pedagogy
 - block, residential and distance delivery
 - ‘home and away’ requirements (mobility)
 - course + practice + thesis modules
- teaching methods
 - e-Learning modules and virtual community learning spaces
 - F2F teaching in different locations
 - interculturality as a learning resource
 - peer-group and self-directed learning
 - individual and cluster tutoring

MA EYS stakes and challenges

- an open area of higher education in Europe
- interdisciplinary and international in approach
- bridging and integrating research and action, theory and practice
- maintaining quality and opening access

⇒ *creating and sustaining the supply of high quality personnel to support and take forward policy-relevant research, knowledge-driven youth policymaking and evidence-based practice*



NUI MAYNOOTH
NUI Maynooth is a member of the NUI Group



MA EYS Consortium

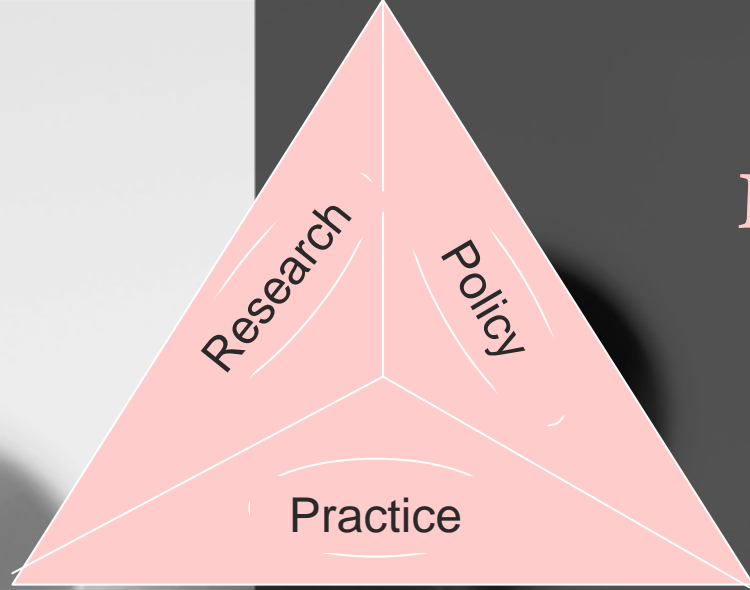
- **University of Innsbruck**, Institute of Educational Sciences (AT) [Coordination]
- **Ghent University**, Department of Social Welfare Studies and **Flemish Youth Research Platform** (BE)
- **Paissii Hilendarski State University Plovdiv**, Faculty of Philosophy and History (BG)
- **National University of Ireland Maynooth**, Department of Applied Social Studies/Centre for Media Studies (IE)
- **Aristoteles University of Thessaloniki**, School of Psychology (EL)
- **University of Lleida**, Department of Geography and Sociology/Youth Studies Centre (ES)
- **University of Tampere**, Department of Social Work and Research (FI)
- **University of Salerno**, Department of Sociology and Political Science (IT)
- **University of Luxembourg**, Integrative Research Unit of Social and Individual Development (LU)
- **University of Oslo**, Institute of Educational Research (NO)
- **University of Glamorgan**, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences (UK)

MA EYS associated partners

- **University of Munich**, Institute of Education (DE)
- **University of Tartu**, Department of Sociology (EE)
- **National Institute for Youth and Community Education (INJEP)**, Marly le roi (FR)
- **University of Zadar**, Department of Sociology (H)
- **University of Iceland** School of Education (IS)
- **University of Malta**, Department of Youth and Community Studies (MA)
- **University of Warsaw**, Youth Research Centre (PL)
- **Dimitrie Cantemir Christian University**, Faculty of Political Sciences, Bucharest (RO)
- **University of Ljubljana**, Centre for Social Psychology (SI)
- **Ss. Cyril and Methodius University, Trnava**, Centre for European and Regional Youth Research (SK)

MA EYS support and advisory networks

- European Commission – Council of Europe Partnership on Youth
- Council of Europe Directorate of Youth and Sport, European Youth Centres
- European Youth Forum
- Austrian Ministries for Science and Youth
- ISA: Research Committee 34 (Sociology of Youth)
- ESA: Research Network Youth and Generation



MA EYS Participant Profile

- balanced composition: *youth researchers + non-formal youth trainers and youth workers + government administrators + youth services staff*
- preference given to mixed origins and varied experience with critical and creative blend of experience *in youth research, policy and practice*
- B.A. or equivalent + 2 years relevant professional experience + 2 languages including EN

MA EYS learning aims

- knowledge and understanding of youth, youth policy, research methodologies and the European institutional context
- management, leadership and teamwork skills
- problem-solving competence for understanding implementation
- intercultural competence
- social and communication competence
- ‘translational skills’ (between research, policy and practice)

Graduate employment prospects

- researchers and academics in intercultural comparative youth studies
- critically reflective non-formal youth trainers working in transnational and intercultural contexts
- administrators and service providers in public and private sectors, specialising in education, training and youth affairs
- broad professional careers in educational, social, administrative, management and human resource development – including in European and international organisations, NGOs, companies and contexts

Making it happen

- Time and energy from the consortium (as since 2006...)
- Backing from the youth field in context of existing support from the Youth Partnership, the Council of Europe and the European Commission
- Build in youth sector expertise to the faculty pool
- Winning the formal game of higher education degree accreditation
- Application for EU LLP-Erasmus CD project grant (project launch autumn 2009)



Opening up higher education in Europe...

... is a worthwhile challenge for all of us.

We count on your support.