



12<sup>th</sup> meeting of Experts on Youth Research and Information  
11-12<sup>th</sup> October 2006  
Strasbourg

Report

## **Introduction**

The 12<sup>th</sup> meeting of experts on youth research and information was this time planned as a partly joined meeting with the national correspondents to the European Knowledge Centre for Youth Policy. As every year the meeting acted as platform for information and exchange between correspondents of European countries, the European Commission and the Council of Europe. Current developments in European Youth policy and in youth research were presented and discussed.

## **Development of the Partnership between the CoE and the European Commission**

Hanjo Schild of the Directorate of Youth and Sport (CoE) opened the meeting with a presentation of the Partnership between the CoE and the European Commission. The research Partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe was established 2003 following the White Paper on Youth key priority “Better knowledge on young people”. Until 2005 the three pillars – training, Euromed and research – existed in parallel as separate Partnerships but were joined in 2005 under one umbrella of the Partnership on youth.

For the next years the main attention will be on intercultural dialogue and co-operation, European citizenship and human rights education, ensuring the visibility of youth work and – following the White Paper on Youth – providing better knowledge on youth. This lies in the field of functions of the Partnership on research.

The main activities of the Research Partnership are to organise research seminars and workshops on different topics concerning European youth policy, the European Knowledge Centre for Youth Policy and the researcher’s network.

Research seminars: Until now six research seminars were held on the topics of resituating cultures, youth political participation, non formal learning, voluntary activities, social inclusion as well as on diversity, human rights education and participation. The next seminar – scheduled for November 2006 – will be on young people and active European citizenship

The workshops were about the new programme Youth in Action of the European Union, the draft common objectives for a better knowledge and understanding of youth, the economic scope of youth work / non-formal learning and – in December 2006 - on voluntary activities and young people with fewer opportunities.

EKCYP: The development of the European Knowledge Centre for Youth Policy began in 2003. It was officially launched at the Conference in Luxembourg 2005 during Luxembourg’s presidency of the European Union. The web service is online for almost one and a half years now and will be remodelled parallelly to the implementation of the new Partnership webpage.

The researcher’s network: The network of experts was funded by the CoE already in the mid 80ies but the activities ceased because of financial problems in the end of the 90ies. With the establishment of the Partnership the network was revitalised and now meets once a year. The tasks of the network are to contribute to evidence based youth policy on European and national level, to act as a platform for the Partnership to forward information to the researchers and to give feedback on national networking and to develop network and co-operation structures on the national level.

These developments followed the White Paper key priority “Better understanding of youth” has 3 main objectives that were adopted by the EU-member states. These main objectives are:

- to encourage co-operation in the field of youth research
- to promote dialogue between researchers, policy-makers and professionals
- to publicise and disseminate results of research activities

## **European Commission activities**

Ekaterini Karanika from the European Commission presented the recent developments on the European level on Common Objectives on a Better Understanding of Youth:

1. The adoption on 20<sup>th</sup> July 2006 of the Communication on young people's active European citizenship. The Communication proposes:

- the setting up of a working group on monitoring tools to better follow up on the implementation of the common objectives for participation and information.
- The development of a structured dialogue in a genuine spirit of partnership with young people, youth organisations, youth researchers and national but also regional and local authorities in order to improve young people's participation in the development of the EU. In order for this to be possible, an agenda of themes up until 2009 is proposed: social inclusion and diversity will be addressed in 2007, intercultural dialogue in 2008 and perspectives for continued cooperation in the youth field in 2009.

2. The Ministerial debate organised under Finnish Presidency, on 13 November 2006, which would hopefully give a new impetus for visible progress in the Member States on the priority of a greater knowledge and understanding of youth.

3. The development of national networks on youth to provide better knowledge is fostered by the establishment of the European Network on Youth Knowledge (EUNYK). The first meeting of the network took place in March 2006 in Brussels and mainly focussed on the setting up of a national network in each country linking youth researchers' community, administration in charge of youth and youth organisations. The results of this meeting showed the need of strengthening communication between the different actors in the youth field on a national level as well as a general willingness to establish national networks. It also became evident that there is a need for an action plan agreed upon by these different actors as well as a need for a coordinator to identify actors and organise meetings and dissemination of information within the national youth knowledge network. The next EuNYK meeting is foreseen for March 2007 and could, on the basis of national contributions, help to further elaborate guidelines that will serve as a basis to facilitate the setting-up of such a national youth knowledge network in each member state.

4. The cooperation between DG EAC and DG ESTAT (Eurostat) which has been intensified in the last two years as a result of the adoption of the common objectives on a greater understanding and knowledge of youth. As a result of this cooperation, Youth is, for the first time, mentioned as a theme in current drafting of future 2008 – 2013 statistical programmes.

5. The Eurobarometer Survey (Flash Eurobarometer) which DG Education and Culture is going to launch in the beginning of 2007 for the first time for the 25 Member States + Bulgaria, Romania. The survey will be conducted by telephone interviewing and the targeted group are young Europeans aged 15-30 years old.

6. The Research Framework Programmes: The progress of youth research during the last years was very significant. Research in the youth field is now visible, youth topics have been already accepted in the 6<sup>th</sup> framework programme and different projects on youth research have been financed under this framework programme.

The 7<sup>th</sup> framework programme is going to be adopted by the end of 2006. There is a clear opening for youth research and youth researchers in the working programme.

The 7<sup>th</sup> framework programme will start 2007 and will have 8 pillars under the heading of socio-economic sciences and the humanities:

- Growth, employment and competitiveness in a knowledge society: developing and integrating research on the issues affecting growth, employment and competitiveness, ranging from innovation, education including life-long learning and the role of scientific and other knowledge, to national institutional contexts.
- Combining economic, social and environmental objectives in a European perspective: by addressing the two key and highly interrelated issues of continuing evolution of European socio-economic models and economic and social cohesion in an enlarged EU, taking into account the protection of the environment.
- Major trends in society and their implications: such as demographic change including ageing and migration; lifestyles, work, families, gender issues, health and quality of life; criminality; the role of business in society and population diversity, cultural interactions and issues related to protection of fundamental rights and the fight against racism and intolerance.
- Europe in the world: understanding changing interactions and interdependencies between world regions and their implications for the regions concerned, especially Europe; and addressing emerging threats and risks without undermining human rights, freedom and well-being.
- The citizen in the European Union: in the context of the future development of the EU, addressing the issues of achieving a sense of democratic “ownership” and active participation by the peoples of Europe; effective and democratic governance including economic governance; and building a shared understanding and respect for Europe’s diversities and commonalities in terms of culture, institutions, history, languages and values.
- Socio-economic and scientific indicators: their use in policy and its implementation and monitoring, the improvement of existing indicators and the development of new ones for this purpose and for the evaluation of research programmes, including indicators based on official statistics.
- Foresight activities on major science, technology and related socio-economic issues such as the future demographic trends and the globalization of knowledge and evolution of research systems, as well as of the future developments in and across major research domains and scientific disciplines.
- Strategic activities

It is obvious that youth can be easily integrated in the third and the fifth field but also the other domains give opportunities for research on young people in connection with the lined out activities. Further information can be found on the homepage of DG Research ([http://ec.europa.eu/research/index\\_en.cfm](http://ec.europa.eu/research/index_en.cfm)).

### **Council of Europe youth policy**

André-Jacques Dodin gave an overview of the new youth policy developments within the Council of Europe.

#### CoE Strategy paper on youth policy

Youth research always played a major role in CoE youth policy. The dialogue between youth researchers, youth NGOs and youth policy makers – symbolised in the “magic triangle” – is a basic principle. For the CoE it was always evident that it needed valuable information for the further development of youth policy.

During the last youth ministers conference 2005 in Budapest the topic violence was in the centre of interest and it was discussed how youth policy could help violence prevention. The next planned youth ministers conference (2008 in the Ukraine) will be essential for the future of CoE youth policy. Since the European Union nowadays focuses more on youth policy the future role of the CoE in this regard is more and more the topic of discussions.

For the Council of Europe human rights are of highest importance and so budget increases for the Court of Human Rights as well as for different activities in the field of human rights. At the same time the budget for other activities and fields remains the same or is even decreasing.

All countries eagerly admit that youth is very important for the future, but concerning budget cuts the youth sector is very often one of the first.

Therefore a proactive approach has to be chosen for the conference in 2008. A strategy paper on youth policy until 2020 will show the current and future priorities in the youth sector. This paper should help the governments to clarify the role of the Council of Europe and specifically of the youth field of the CoE. It will propose a strategy on national as well as on international level.

The CoE has a rich expertise regarding human rights and human rights education, participation, anti-discrimination, non-formal learning and the strategy paper will reflect these priorities. A drafting group was nominated involving the CDEJ and NGOs. It is planned to have numerous consultations with researchers, young people, the European Commission and NGOs. The network of researchers is invited to contribute.

#### International reviews and advisory missions

Advisory missions and international reviews are carried out by the Directorate of Youth and Sport, CoE since 1997. 14 reports have been completed so far: Finland, Netherlands, Spain, Norway, Sweden, Romania, Estonia, Luxembourg, Lithuania, Malta, Norway, Cyprus, Slovakia and – newly finished – Armenia. For 2007 the Hungarian and Latvian reports are planned. These reviews are done on request of the countries.

Due to Peter Lauritzen's long-term absence it was decided that Howard Williamson should be the external project leader for future reports since he has a good overview of all the reports until now and is very experienced. He will be contracted through his university. Howard and CoE want to establish a pool of experts that could be involved in such international reviews.

It is planned to alter the structure of the reviews a little, to integrate a follow-up structure and mechanism to monitor the reaction to the review. Also after 2 or 3 years it could be checked how the results of the review were implemented in the country.

The advisory missions are a mean to assist governments in the development of national youth policies. The results of these missions are not published. For next year the Ukraine has asked for an advisory mission.

In the following discussion it was stressed that in the past the CoE was a leading force for the development of youth policy; thus it is desirable to get a kind of road map for international youth policy (like it was done in the past by seeing youth policy as cross-sectoral policy or the implementation of evidence based policy). As sometimes youth policies are so far away from the real life of young people, the implementation of youth policy on local and regional level is very important. Synergies among people responsible for youth policy on the local level should be developed and implementation of good ideas for youth policy on a local and regional level should be

promoted, for instance by exchanging models of good practise (including results from the reviews as well as from the advisory missions).

## **Partnership activities 2006**

### Research seminars

Until 2005 five research seminars were held on the topics of resituating cultures, youth political participation, non formal learning, voluntary activities and social inclusion. In 2006 two seminars were planned – on “Diversity – human rights – participation” and “European Citizenship”.

The main purpose of the seminar on social inclusion was to understand better the needs of young people in this regard, especially those of disadvantaged young people. A special focus was laid on vocational education and training. Once more the seminar showed that more specific research on the topic is needed as well as an ongoing dialogue on the strategies of social inclusion. This concerns particularly the topic of criminal justice; the systems in some countries make it hard for young people, which came in conflict with the law, to enter the labour market. This was not discussed in the seminar due to the lack of papers covering that topic. It was recommended to tackle this theme in the future.

The seminar on “Diversity – human rights – participation” dealt with a review of the concepts of the mentioned topics and if they still are usable in the same way as in the past. The focus of the seminar was obviously on the topics of the new campaign “All Different – All Equal” with diversity considered mainly in relation to culture, human rights - in relation to the role of education and participation – as an equal access to information and opportunities

The results of the seminars will be published in the same series of seminar publications by the Council of Europe as the previous ones.

The next seminar in November 2006 will be on active citizenship of young people with special focus on meanings, understandings and promotion of European citizenship, the role and impact of citizenship, the participation of young people and the structured dialogue between young people and policy makers.

For the future a modified structure of the participants in the seminars is foreseen with a more balanced number of researchers, policy makers and practitioners around the table. At the same time the number of inputs should be reduced in order to increase the time for discussion.

### Workshops

For December a workshop on voluntary activities and young people with fewer opportunities is planned. The workshop should specifically elaborate some key recommendations for policy makers and other actors in the field.

### Publications

Among the various publications of the Partnership there is a new format, newsletters that are published online and disseminated virtually. For further development of this service it is desirable to have more e-mail addresses for the distribution.

The Partnership training magazine Coyote no. 11 is out now; its main topic is non-formal learning and education. The future structure of Coyote is currently discussed: beyond the training strand it should be opened up for the other pillars of the Partnership – research and Euromed as well as other items. The next issue of Coyote will focus on the campaign “All Different – All Equal”.

The web portal of the Partnership will be re-organised; after the merging of its three pillars it is planned to also merge the three existing web sites into a better structured and more comprehensive site that will be online in the end of 2007.

### Study on economic scope of youth work

In June a call for tender for a study on the socio-economic scope of youth work in Europe was launched. It was based on a literature analysis showing that not enough information on the different sectors of youth work exists in Europe.. The aim of the research is to get more information on the different sectors of youth work, the people involved and the money spent in these sectors with a special focus on the local and regional level. The study should cover about 10 European countries considering a geographical balance, paying attention to differences in the systems of youth policies in the countries and also covering EU and non-EU countries. Two proposals were submitted; from ISS (Germany) and jugendkultur.at (Austria). In the discussion it was stressed that the timing of the call for research proposals (end of June, deadline beginning of August) was quite tight and therefore not easy to find partners. One of the reasons for this timing was that the European Commission wants to get the results as soon as possible.

### Management structures

In the Partnership's management board the European Commission and the Council of Europe are represented. The Partnership also holds once a year a consultative meeting with different stakeholders in the youth field like the European Youth Forum, Eurodesk and others.

Three Partnership Sectorial Groups dealing with special themes exist, but not in all of them a representative of the researchers' network is involved. The groups deal with Better understanding of young people / youth policy (Tommi Hoikkola), Euromed and human rights education (Anthony Azzopardi) and European citizenship and quality and recognition of youth work (here a researcher is still missing). The sectorial group on publication and information was cancelled since its scope is covered by the other groups.

### Future

For the year 2007 the focus of the research seminars of the Partnership will be on employment of young people and the future of work, and on equal opportunities. In more general terms an increase of the regional focus is planned towards South-Eastern Europe and East Europe and Caucasus Region.

### **European Knowledge Centre for Youth Policy**

Philipp Boetzelen presented the EKCYP and the suggestion for the new web portal of the Partnership which will include the Knowledge Centre.

The EKCYP exists now for two years. The pilot phase started in 2005 with 16 countries; the official launch was during the conference in Luxembourg. Now 32 countries are involved. The thematic priorities of the EKCYP until now cover the topics of the common objectives of the White Paper, participation, voluntary activities, information and better understanding of youth and an overview of the youth policy in the countries providing also statistical basics on youth. It can be found under the internet address [www.youth-knowledge.net](http://www.youth-knowledge.net).

Now a complete restructuring of the web page is planned to ease the work of the national correspondents and make the site more user friendly. This goes in parallel to merging of the three Partnership web pages into a single site that will also fulfill accessibility requirements. In this restructuring of the EKCYP the recommendations of the quality group will be taken into account, such as: higher and more scientific standards (e.g. sources), open the EKCYP up for other topics, increase of the user-friendliness and changing some of the questions.

Until now, no co-operations with statistical offices, like Eurostat, or with other databases exist, but it is the intention to build up these kinds of co-operation, at least to exchange links. A direct import of other data would be interesting, but one of the major aims of the EKCYP is to provide comparable data from different European countries, which for the moment is not reached. The reason is incompatibility of the data collected in the countries and provided through the EKCYP (various age groups, rural/urban, not similar questions ...). In the future the focus will be more on comparability over time instead of comparing data of different countries. Also a clear definition of all terms used is important for comparability.

One of the problems of the EKCYP is that the target group is not clearly defined. For this and other reasons researchers do not find the data really useful as in many cases they can not be used in another context as it would be possible with raw data). And for policy makers some of the answers are not relevant. It is difficult to find a way between being too simplistic or too complex.

In the discussion it was proposed to the Partnership to organise a seminar on comparative research. This should cover cross-cultural and cross-regional data as well as over times. The seminar should deal with quantitative and qualitative data.

### **MA in EYS**

Charles Berg presented the plan for the MA in European Youth Studies.

It will be an International Joint Degree Program after a BA. The structure of the project shows a consortium of different universities with the main base in Krems (Austria). The core group of universities is set already and around them there is a satellite group of individuals and universities that can contribute to the MAEYS. (For further information on the possibilities for joining this satellite group contact Lynn Chisholm, Karl Franzens Universität, Innsbruck, Austria.)

The academic board will be in charge of guaranteeing the academic quality, beside that group there should be a larger consultative board. The teaching staff can also be from outside universities.

The students should come from the different angles of the triangle – research, youth work and policy making – this means the model of accepting criteria for attending the studies have to be worked out in detail for the different group. Students should have academic experience but also diverse other kinds of experience might allow the attendance to the course. The capacity of the first course will be 30 students, with regional balance if possible.

The financial aspects of the course are not fixed, but the main funding will come from the academic resources from the consortium. Also the Erasmus Mundi Programme might be a support programme for the course which would have an implication on the structure of the students (since in this case 50% of the students have to be from outside the EU). The individual costs for the students are not fixed yet – probably they will differ between the countries.

The students will attend bloc seminars in one place, enabling real meetings of the students. Beside that tutorials will be given in the different countries and a big part of the course could be done via e-learning. Also regional groups could be a way of teaching. The concrete models have to be worked out in the near future.

### **The campaign “All Different – All Equal”**

The new campaign – 10 years after the last one with the same name – aims at a positive approach to tackle the problem of intolerance and racism. Whereas the old campaign 50 years after the end of WW2 was against Racism, Anti-Semitism,

Xenophobia and Intolerance the new one tries to foster Participation, Human Rights and Diversity. This new campaign is de-centralised. This means in all countries national campaign committees should be established to implement the campaign on a national level.

There are 4 pillars of the campaign: a) thematic and cultural events (youth events; music festivals), b) educational and training activities (focused on topics of the campaign), c) awareness raising activities and d) knowledge collection and provision. The preparation phase lasted from November 2005 to May 2006, the official launch took place in June 2006 and the campaign will run until September 2007. Afterwards the evaluation is planned for September 2007 till December 2007.

Partners of the campaign are the CoE, the European Youth Forum (who initiated the campaign), the European Commission and civil society (NGOs, donors, sponsors). Further information can be obtained through the website <http://alldifferent-allequal.info>.

### **Additional Presentations:**

Nicole Vettenburg presented the youth research inventory of the Flemish Community of Belgium. The platform started with three university departments – for sociology, pedagogic and criminology. More than 200 research institutes in Belgium were contacted and asked for references on research on youth, 50 reacted. After two years of collecting information now more than 700 references are presented on the webpage including abstracts and other relevant data.

After that a synthesis report was published as a book. The main results of that report are that data for children under the age of 10 is lacking, that some topics are not covered at all – like urbanisation, non-formal learning in school or the influence of school on family life, that almost all research is done on request of politicians.

Anne Kofod from Denmark presented CEFU – the Danish Centre for Youth Research. This centre was established in 2000 on the initiative of the Danish Youth Council and it is affiliated to Learning Lab Denmark, The Danish University of Education.

Members from central institutions, organisations, and enterprises, support the centre and have therefore the possibility to receive research results earlier and to be invited to conferences. Recently a research was carried out on the phenomenon of criminal younger brothers who show the tendency to become more criminal. For more information see [http://www.cefudk/english\\_intro/](http://www.cefudk/english_intro/)

Manfred Zentner from Austria presented the training and research project: EYCAdeMy. The aim of this project is to provide comparable qualitative data in different European countries. In the year 2006 17 countries participated in the project that is carried out on behalf of the EYCA (European Youth Card Association). The participants of the project get trained in focus group methodology and do a research on a given topic afterwards in their countries. 2006 the research topic was “Young people’s perception of Diversity in their local surrounding. Previous researches were on participation, on information needs and media usage and on participation in youth organisations. Further information can be obtained on the webpage of EYCA [www.eyca.org](http://www.eyca.org) in the section “projects” or from Manfred Zentner.

Jan Sipos introduced the newly established Slovakian youth research network. It was funded in spring 2006 as a reaction on the international review on youth in Slovakia. The members of the network are institutions and individuals. The first project of the network is a research database where detailed information on the different researches carried out will be collected and it will be open for everybody via internet.

Furthermore, a co-operation with the Czech Youth Institute is planned. The aim of

this network is to get young people more active in society. For further information on the database see: [www.vyskummladeze.sk](http://www.vyskummladeze.sk)

The German Youth Institute (DJI) [www.dji.de](http://www.dji.de) was presented by René Bendit. This institute is a network in itself. In Germany no network of youth researchers exists because the number is too large (about 3.000). The DJI networks in the German Sociologic Society (DSG) and in the fields of research on youth welfare systems. The latest big studies in Germany were the new Shell-Study and the DJI-study – the latter has a bigger age sample and a special sample for young people with migration background. The DJI understands itself as part of the triangle: research, NGO and youth policy in Germany. It is represented in a working group in the ministry in charge of youth in Germany and is a member in a working group on international youth policy. One of the latest projects, “Up2Youth” was analysing how much young people are actors in society. Three dimensions were in the main focus of interest: young parenthood, transition to work life and participation & citizenship (see [www.up2youth.org](http://www.up2youth.org) ). René also presented the conference of INCYP (International Council of Youth Policies), with a researchers’ meeting taking place in parallel, 11<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> December 2006 in Vienna

### **Practicalities**

A more regular communication among within the network was proposed by the Partnership Secretariat. Updates could be sent on more regular basis, consultations with the experts could be launched by the Secretariat on adequate occasions. Creating an email list could be helpful – possibilities of arranging it with the CoE technicians will be explored by Marta Medlinska.



## Joint session of the Experts on Youth Research and Information and the European Knowledge Centre Correspondents 13<sup>th</sup> September 2006

### **Introduction**

For the morning session of the 13<sup>th</sup> September the EKCYP correspondents joined the meeting of the youth researchers. The aim of this joint meeting was increasing of dialogue, exchange and co-operation between members of these two networks.

### **Publication of “Dialogues and Networks”**

Marianne Milmeister from the CESIJE in Luxemburg presented the publication “Dialogues and networks. Organising exchanges between youth field actors”. The CESIJE is the national youth research centre in Luxemburg with the main working fields in research, evaluation, documentation and consultation. The publication presented was done as a follow up of the conference held in Luxemburg from 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> June 2006. This conference focused on possibilities for social co-production of knowledge and brought together the different actors in the youth field: youth researchers, youth NGOs and youth policy makers. The political context of the conference was the White Paper on Youth in which the open method of co-ordination on the 4 priority topics (voluntary activities, participation, information and better understanding and knowledge of youth) was introduced. The theme of the conference followed the common objectives of the priority “Better Understanding”. The editors of the book are Marianne Milmeister and Howard Williamson. In the publication examples of good practice on co-operation of young people, youth research and policy are presented: In the city of Trier (Germany) children are involved in urban planning; in Luxemburg the “plan communal jeunesse” was created in co-operation of the different actors in the youth field representing all angles of the “magic triangle”..

Also the outcomes of the workshops of the conference are presented in the book. One workshop was held on the identification of research areas like cross-European research, to produce a common understanding of youth work or generational exchange. The second workshop dealt with the management and co-ordination of research where a clearinghouse or youth knowledge agencies were asked for. The transfer of knowledge was topic of the third workshop in which national networks and their co-operation with the EKCYP was discussed. The last workshop defined the structure of knowledge production channels.

The conference has shown that the EKCYP is a virtual hub for knowledge exchange but can not and will not substitute personal communication and reflection. Furthermore the knowledge development through dialogue of the actors on local, regional and national level is important. But it is essential that no hierarchy of knowledge is produced.

The publication draws the conclusions that the triangle is a simplified metaphor for the organised dialogue, which needs to be structured and organised to come into action.

The discussion highlighted that knowledge based policy asks for applied science. Policy makers and youth workers expect conclusions and advice from the researchers. But this will not mean that only applied research is done and it can not mean that research loses its independence. In the last years it became evident that universities and individual researchers have to work together with policy makers. The gap between fundamental and applied research is not so big. But until now it is academic policy that researchers have to have scientific publications, which is not easy to achieve with applied research. The political world changed already and asks for research results to ensure evidence based work, maybe the academic world has to change too.

### **Networking on European level**

Ekaterini Karanika from the European Commission launched a discussion on possibilities for an increased networking on European level. Up to now three networks exist on European level, all aiming at a co-production of knowledge and a better understanding on youth: EUNYK, EKCYP and the researchers' network. EUNYK established by the EU is a network to foster national networks on youth knowledge. It aims for a social co-production of knowledge by inviting different actors of the youth field - youth researchers' community, administration in charge of youth and youth organisations - in all EU member states. The first meeting of this network was in March 2006, the next one will be in March 2007.

EKCYP provides – via a network of correspondents – a data collection that allows comparisons between different countries on certain topics connected to the White Paper priorities. It serves more as a tool in the implementation of the Common Objectives on a Greater Understanding and Knowledge of Youth.

And the network of researchers which is a link between the Partnership and the national youth research communities.

The aim is to increase the co-operation between these networks. The first step can be that all members of these networks register to the ECKYP to have the same amount of information delivered through the Knowledge Centre. This would help to identify the other actors on national level and might induce a dialogue. It is also thinkable that the ECKYP can act as a virtual library for the planned MA EYS.

One of the most important developments would be an enlargement of the range of topics of the EKCYP; this would make it more interesting for youth researchers. But an increase in the number of topics would lead to an increase of workload for the Partnership, for which further resources would be needed. At the same time it is essential to invite the researchers to make their papers available through the knowledge centre. Furthermore European studies, especially those run or financed by European institutions should be present on the EKCYP.

A different approach for further networking would be to conduct more European studies and surveys with the involvement of the three existing institutionalised European networks.

Finally, Ekaterini Karanika stressed out that the Commission gives its political support to the work of correspondents. It is necessary that the participant countries understand the importance of the EKCYP and the correspondent's work and fully support it.

Report drafted by Manfred Zentner



**Council of Europe & European Commission  
Youth Research Partnership**

**EXPERTS ON YOUTH RESEARCH AND  
INFORMATION NETWORK**

**12<sup>TH</sup> MEETING**

*European Youth Centre Strasbourg  
11<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> October 2006*

**EUROPEAN KNOWLEDGE CENTRE FOR YOUTH  
POLICY CORRESPONDENTS**

**1<sup>ST</sup> MEETING**

*European Youth Centre Strasbourg  
13<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> October 2006*

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