

Youth Partnership

Partnership between the European Commission
and the Council of Europe in the field of youth



Call for Experts:

Mapping of barriers to social inclusion for young people in vulnerable situations

Background:

Social inclusion of young people has been for several years among the key areas of concern for both the European Union and the Council of Europe.

Social inclusion is a key priority of the Europe 2020 Strategy of the **European Union**, setting a common target to lift 20 million people out of risk of poverty by 2020. This goal is backed by the flagship initiative 'European Platform against Poverty and Social Exclusion' and the Open Method of coordination for social protection and social inclusion. While these policies have a strong bearing on youth, two policy initiatives deal specifically with the situation of young people: the flagship initiative 'Youth on the Move' and the Youth Employment Package. Both measures have significant social inclusion objectives: to make education more accessible and better suited to young people's needs, to stimulate youth educational mobility (through the Erasmus+ Programme) and to encourage Member States to take measures easing the transition from school to work. The Youth Employment Package includes actions such as the Youth Guarantee, Quality Framework for Traineeships, and the European Alliance for Apprenticeships.

Complementing and supporting the above, the EU Youth Strategy (2010-2018) was developed with the principle objectives to create more and equal opportunities for youth in education and the labour market and to promote social inclusion and solidarity of all young people. Social inclusion is one of the eight fields of action defined by the Strategy and is set as the focus of the second three-year work cycle of the Strategy (2013-2015) and of the Ireland-Lithuania-Greece Trio Presidency.

For the **Council of Europe**, social cohesion is firmly based on human rights (as codified in the European Convention on Human Rights, the New Strategy and Council of Europe Action Plan for Social Cohesion and the Revised European Social Charter), as well as an acceptance of shared responsibility for the welfare of all members of society, especially those who are at risk of poverty or exclusion. In line with this, the youth policy of the Council of Europe aims at "providing young people with equal opportunities and experience which enable them to develop knowledge, skills and competencies to play a full part in all aspects of society", as stated in the 'Agenda 2020', which guides Council of Europe youth policy since 2008.

In 2009, the Council of Europe's youth sector initiated the 'Enter! Project'¹ aiming at the development of youth policy responses to exclusion, discrimination and violence affecting young people, particularly in multicultural disadvantaged neighborhoods, with multi-dimensional social and economic imbalances experienced by young people living therein. This project was set in response to the growing concern and attention of the European Steering Committee on Youth and the Advisory Council on Youth, the governmental and non-governmental partners of the youth sector of the Council of Europe, to matters of social cohesion and inclusion of young people.

Given the strong relevance of the topic of social inclusion for the youth policies of the Council of Europe and the European Union, they have decided to make social inclusion one of the two priority areas in their **partnership in the field of youth**.

The European policy debate shows an increasing awareness of the need to look at the broader aspects of social inclusion, taking into account both, the structural and the individual factors that lead to social exclusion of young people. Whereas the recent socioeconomic crisis and a related rise in youth unemployment in many European countries had a negative impact on the inclusion of young people in general, some disadvantaged groups of young people face exclusion in the longer term. In fact, the recent crisis only reinforced many of the previously existing negative phenomena and their related consequences. Based on the evidence brought by recent projects such as Enter! and the EC policy review 'Social Inclusion of youth at the margins of society'², the EU-CoE Youth Partnership aims at systematising and broadening the knowledge base about existing obstacles for young people in situations of disadvantage around Europe and to support policy and practice with concrete examples of practice showing how obstacles have been overcome in specific contexts.

More conceptual reflection can be found [here](#)

Purpose of the mapping of barriers and description of the process

The purpose of a mapping of 'barriers to social inclusion of young people in vulnerable situations' is to develop a better knowledge that can support initiatives aiming at facilitating the access to rights of young people in vulnerable situations and at providing them with opportunities to equally engage in society.

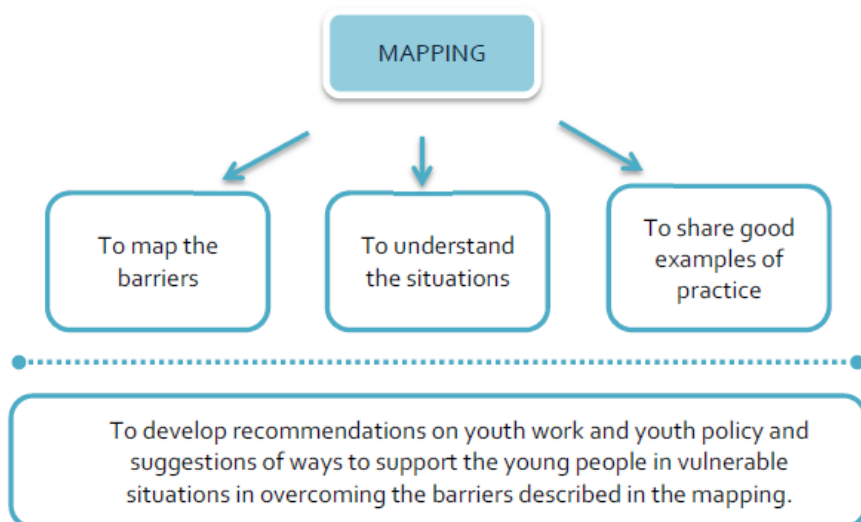
The **twofold objective** of the mapping consists of:

- Understanding the structures/mechanisms that generate vulnerability, their impact, and consequences on individuals/groups at risk of exclusion and/or in vulnerable situations (i);
- Explore good examples of practice allowing youth policy and youth work to learn from successful and/or failed approaches around Europe (ii).

Fig. 1

¹ Council of Europe youth department (2013): [Enter project report](#)

² EC 2012: [Social inclusion of youth on the margins of society](#)



This work will refer to the EACEA report on youth participation in democratic life, the study on the value of youth work, the study of Eurofound 'NEETs - Young people not in employment, education or training: Characteristics, costs and policy responses in Europe', the first two issues of the Perspectives on Youth as well as the reports of the earlier EU-CoE youth partnership activities (in particular the Youth and Crisis symposium, Youth in 2020 conference on the future of youth policies, EECA symposium on the role of youth work in education for democratic citizenship and participation, seminar on youth and citizenship in the Euro-Mediterranean youth cooperation), the EKCYP summary report on social inclusion of young people, the Enter! project conclusions, the EC policy review 'Social Inclusion of youth at the margins of society', the extensive work of the SALTO Inclusion RC and other relevant sources.

The provisional findings of the mapping and proposed examples of good practice will be **discussed in an expert seminar** of approximately 35-40 experts (from policy, research and practice) will take place 30 September - 2 October 2014 in Strasbourg. Further to the feedback on the mapping and related good examples of practice, the expert seminar will **propose a number of conclusions and recommendations** addressed at policy, research and practice on how to overcome barriers to social inclusion.

The **expected outcomes** of the mapping process are:

- An analytical paper presenting a single concise framework for systematising knowledge on the barriers limiting access to social rights of young people in vulnerable situations. The variety of situations in Member States should be taken into account.
- An analytical paper analysing good examples of practice in youth work and youth policy in overcoming the barriers identified.
- Recommendations to youth work and youth policy and suggestions of ways to support the young people from different youth groups in overcoming the barriers described in the mapping.
- Policy brief(s) presenting the final results of the process and their dissemination.

Finally, the findings of the mapping will be presented and discussed at a **conference on the role of youth work in supporting young people in vulnerable situations** in Malta in late November (provisional dates 25-27/11/2014, tbc).

Key items of the analytical papers on barriers to social inclusion of young people in vulnerable situations

i) Analytical paper presenting a mapping of barriers (desk research)

The analytical paper should take into account the five domains of exclusion as identified by the preparatory group of this project: Work, Education, Housing, Health, Citizenship, Culture. Exclusion from each of these domains can be of different nature and degree and touches upon a variety of dimensions (e.g. the economic dimension which can be linked to different domains such as housing, work, education, etc.). As for the methodological approach it is suggested to narrow down the risk factors/barriers from the general social domains to specific policy approaches taking into account a number of further criteria. The scheme below (Fig. 2) has been considered by the preparatory group as particularly suitable with regard to the analysis to be performed.

Fig 2

	What? Domains	Risk factors/barriers (with regard to each domain and domain elements identified)	Recommendations for targeted interventions by youth policy and youth work (with regard to each risk factor/barrier identified)	Good examples of practice
Low access to	Work Education Housing Health Citizenship Culture			
High exposure to*				

* Note with regard to 'high exposure': should this scheme be used for the analytical papers, it is recommended at first not to focus on 'high exposure' as in many cases this is just the direct consequence of the 'low access to'. It may though be useful to cover the aspects not directly addressed in the "low access" part, e.g. high exposure to discrimination.

A list of existing European programmes and research projects should be part of the mapping.

ii) Analytical paper analysing good examples of practice

Good examples of practice need to match the mapping of barriers (points of reference) while showing practice applied in a specific (national) context and possibly concerning specific vulnerable groups/situations.

- The scope of delivery should be of two good examples of practice: 'good' examples to follow or 'bad' examples, to be learned from, per domain as a minimum;
- Specificities of the context in which a good example of practice has taken place should be explained in order to allow for an evaluation of the applicability of a policy/practice in other settings.

For both parts (i and ii), specific attention should be given to the following elements:

- The existence of multiple or accumulated barriers faced by young people in vulnerable situations;
- The sensitivity and implications of using certain terminologies, the risk and possible negative implications of labelling individuals from so called 'vulnerable groups' (hence the more appropriate use of 'in vulnerable situations');
- The existence of unknown 'factors' hindering social inclusion and related experiences;
- The existing perceptions and prejudices within societies and their potential impact on excluded members of the society (eg. discrimination leading to a lower self-esteem);
- The risk to end up focusing more on young people in vulnerable situations than on the barriers to inclusion;
- The balance between focusing on society ('structure') on the one hand side and young people as specific subjects (of exclusion) on the other hand side ('resilience', 'agency', 'coping').
- In so far as possible, young people in vulnerable situations should be involved in the mapping, for example through the support and mediation of youth welfare NGOs.

Terms and application procedure

Competencies required (criteria of eligibility)

- relevant experience in the fields of youth research, youth policy and youth work;
- experience in conducting similar analysis on international level;
- good analytical and synthetic skills;
- excellent English writing skills.

Financial conditions

In total, 32 expert days can be allocated for the mapping of barriers including the six domains of exclusion, based on a daily fee of 260 €; 16 expert days can be allocated for the analysis of good examples of practice (at least 12 examples with their analysis in total).

Costs of participating in the expert seminar, the conference and other meetings, if judged necessary, will be covered – the related details will be agreed at a later stage.

Deadline

Applications should be submitted **by Wednesday, 28 May 2014**, midnight.

Nature of applications

Given the extensive scope of the analysis, the application of **teams is strongly encouraged**; teams should be multidisciplinary and be composed of experts from a number of different domains (incl. practitioners if possible); the application of individual experts for a specific domain is also possible.

Proposals can be submitted for the mapping of barriers or/and the analysis of good examples of practice (i and ii described above).

Expressions of interest should consist of

- a succinct motivation letter stating the expert's rationale for undertaking the study;
- CV(s) of involved expert(s) stating the relevant experience in the selected topic(s);
- two previous writing samples of about 2 pages each;
- a work plan proposal including 1-2 page outlines of the analytical paper(s) and a detailed schedule.

Overall Timeline

5 May	Launch of the call for experts
1 June	Deadline for applications
6 June	Selection of experts or expert team(s)
17 August	Deadline for the submission of a first draft of the papers
29 September – 2 October	Expert seminar aimed at sharing and debating the provisional findings (participation of experts required)
2 November	Deadline for processing feedback of the expert seminar and revising the analytical paper(s)
Week 48 (25-27 November, tbc)	The findings of the mapping are presented and discussed in the conference in Malta on the role of youth work in overcoming barriers faced by youth in vulnerable situations
15 December	Finalising the analytical papers based on the discussions at the Malta conference

The work will be done in close communication with the EU-CoE youth partnership secretariat and may involve additional physical or visio- coordination meetings.

Questions?

May you be interested in applying and have questions please do not hesitate to contact Philipp Boetzelen: Philipp.Boetzelen@partnership-eu.coe.int

Thank you for sending your application to
Philipp.Boetzelen@partnership-eu.coe.int and
youth-partnership@partnership-eu.coe.int by
Wednesday 28 May, midnight