

STRENGTHENING YOUTH WORK ACROSS EUROPE.

growing youth work

CALL FOR WEBINAR / 23.06.2026.

YOUTH WORK TALKS: FUNDING

23 June 2026 | 11:00-12:30 CET | online

How much funding does youth work really need in order to thrive, not just survive? What kinds of funding help youth work remain independent and sustainable? And how far is the field ready to go when lobbying for more support?

These are some of the key questions we will explore in the second webinar of Youth Work Talks in 2026, a three-part webinar series organised within the Growing Youth Work project.

About the webinar

Youth Work Talks brings together practitioners, researchers, and policy makers for open and honest conversations on contested topics shaping the future of youth work. Rather than aiming for easy agreement, the series creates space to name tensions, examine dilemmas, and explore possibilities for cooperation and collective action. The second webinar “Youth Work Talks: Funding” focuses on one of the most practical and politically charged issues facing the field today: how youth work is funded, and what this means for its future.

Funding shapes what youth work can do and what youth work may become. Across Europe, youth work organisations are dealing with a complex and sometimes precarious funding landscape, which is characterised by short-term project cycles, changing political priorities, and increasing pressure to demonstrate impact in terms often defined by others.

Following the first session on recognition and validation, this webinar turns to the structural conditions that make youth work possible - or constrain it. It also opens the way towards the third webinar on instrumentalisation, because the way youth work is funded often shapes how far it can resist being used for the purposes of other sectors.

The webinar will reflect on questions such as:

- What does the funding landscape for youth work currently look like at local, national, and European level?
- What is the difference between project&structural funding and what does it mean for quality, continuity, and independence?
- How can the youth work field strengthen its position through lobbying, coalition-building, and stronger collective strategies?
- What is still structurally missing when it comes to sustainable support for youth work?

What can you expect?

This 90-minute webinar is designed to be dynamic and participatory. It will combine panel discussion, audience interaction and small-group exchange. The webinar will begin with a discussion statement, followed by a live speed-positioning exercise where participants can immediately share their stance. A panel of speakers from local, national, and European levels will then debate the issue from different perspectives, each bringing a dilemma for the audience to reflect on. The session will also include breakout groups, a shared harvest, and final key messages.

The aim is not necessarily to reach consensus, but to name tensions openly, stimulate open dialogue, and explore possible steps forward for the field. If you work directly in youth work or in a related sector, this webinar will offer a valuable opportunity to engage with different perspectives and contribute to an important European conversation.

Why and how to join?

By joining this webinar, you will have the chance to:

- gain insight into the challenges of current youth work funding landscape at different levels;
- reflect on the opportunities and limits of different funding models;
- exchange views with experts and peers from across Europe;
- contribute to identifying tensions, strategies, and possible next steps;
- help generate key messages on how to collectively work towards stronger and more sustainable funding for youth work.

This webinar is part of Growing Youth Work’s contribution to the follow-up of the 4th European Youth Work Convention and the implementation of the European Youth Work Agenda (EYWA). As debates continue around quality, sustainability, and the role of youth work in society, the question of funding is crucial.

We warmly invite you to take part in this conversation and help shape the discussion on funding, sustainability, and the future of youth work in Europe! Please **register by 22 June 2026** by using [THIS LINK](#).

See you online!