SURVEY ON NATIONAL PROCESSES WITHIN THE EUROPEAN YOUTH WORK AGENDA IMPLEMENTATION

The state of play in 2026

Five years of implementation show a process of steady consolidation, with the EYWA increasingly institutionalised across Europe.



SOME STATS...

42
active national processes in 2026

36
national contact points according to GYW website

31
national processes covered by the survey

29
countries represented in the survey

The number of active national processes has grown from 17 in 2022 to 42 in 2026.

Development of national processes from 2022 to 2026



OVERALL DEVELOPMENT AND COORDINATION

NATIONAL CONTACT POINTS ARE...



48%
Ministries representing youth



27%
National Agencies for Erasmus+ and ESC Programmes



51%
involving a national working group

MAIN PRIORITIES



The eight priority areas remain an important framework for national processes.

ACTIVITIES CONNECTED TO THE EYWA



IMPACT OF THE EUROPEAN YOUTH WORK AGENDA

Where is the EYWA making a difference?

The 2026 survey explored impact through the three dimensions highlighted by the European Youth Work Convention.



YOUTH WORK CORE
The strongest impact



- Shared understanding and national vision of youth work
- Recognition and advocacy
- Professionalisation and training
- Evidence and monitoring
- Ethical foundations and inclusive, youth-centred practice

The EYWA has helped create a common language and clearer identity for youth work, while increasing its visibility and legitimacy.

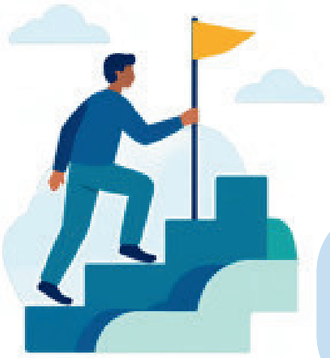
YOUTH WORK ENVIRONMENT
Gradual, but relevant impact



- Stronger networking within the youth work ecosystem
- More consultation, structured dialogue and cooperation
- Capacity-building for youth workers and organisations
- More focus on better working conditions (and competence recognition)
- Increased focus on rural youth work and disadvantaged groups

The EYWA encourages youth work to be understood as a connection between young people, communities, and organisations, authorities, public institutions and civil society.

YOUTH WORK SYSTEMS
Impact is emerging



- Strong governance & political support
- More legal recognition
- Integration into national youth strategies
- Quality systems & collaboration
- Long-term funding and planning

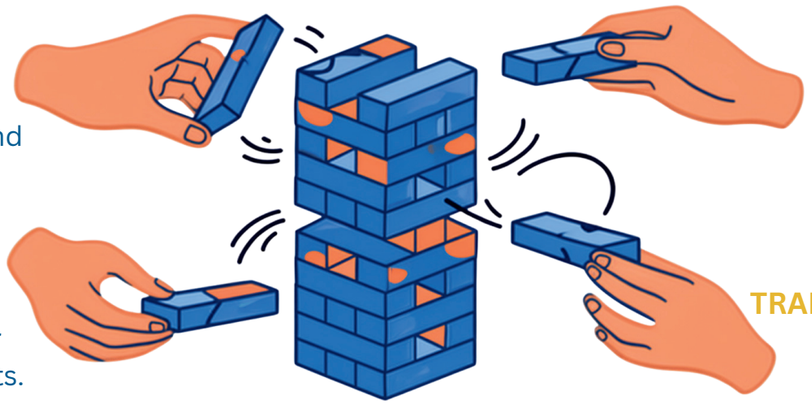
The EYWA has strengthened the understanding of youth work as a sector requiring governance, political support, funding, legal recognition, coordination, and long-term planning. However, systemic change depends on national political commitment and resources.

The greatest impact on local youth work is seen where there are clear national processes, action plans and institutional coordination and municipal partnerships.

WHAT IS STILL NEEDED FOR LASTING IMPACT?

RECOGNITION & RESOURCES
Visibility and professionalisation need to be matched by political commitment, legal recognition and sustainable resources.

LONG-TERM THINKING
Stable structures and long-term planning matter more than isolated projects.



COOPERATION
Connecting stakeholders through (spaces for / structured) exchange, agenda-setting, practical support and advocacy

TRANSFER TO LOCAL LEVEL
Move from European and national frameworks into sustainable local structures.

HUNGRY FOR MORE?

FIND OUT MORE >

The survey report on national processes for implementing the European Youth Work Agenda (EYWA) was written by Frederike Hofmann-van de Poll on behalf of the SNAC Growing Youth Work, a cooperation of 16 National Agencies for Erasmus+ Youth and European Solidarity Corps and SALTO-Youth Resource Centres. The survey is conducted on a yearly basis.

GROWING YOUTH WORK

JUGEND für Europa · AGENCY FOR MOBILITY AND EU PROGRAMMES · JINT · erasmus+ and european solidarity corps agency · TEMPUS PUBLIC FOUNDATION · Agenzia Italiana per la Gioventù · ΙΔΕΠ · eupa · Agência Nacional Erasmus+ Juventude/Desporto Corpo Europeu de Solidariedade · MOViT · NATIONAL AGENCY FOR EUROPEAN EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMES AND MOBILITY · TÜRKİYE ULUSAL AJANSI TURKISH NATIONAL AGENCY · NJi Nederlands Jeugdinstituut · oead · SALTO TRAINING & COOPERATION · SALTO EASTERN EUROPE & CAUCASUS