

**EUROPEAN
YOUTH CARD –
DEVELOPING BETTER
YOUTH MOBILITY
FOR YOUNG PEOPLE
AND FOR EUROPE**

“Developing better youth mobility for young people and for Europe” seminar was held in Andorra on 27 February – 1 March 2013 as part of the [Andorran Chairmanship](#) of the Committee of Ministers in cooperation with Carnet Jove Andorra, [the Council of Europe](#) and the European Youth Card Association. The seminar explored youth mobility from policy, practice, research and employers’ perspectives.

Andorra’s Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Gilbert Saboya Sunye, welcomed 40 participants and stressed that a new reality in Europe requires that we identify obstacles to mobility, and work on new support measures. Mobility has to be connected to thinking about human and social rights, said the Minister, who also asked the group to promote the Human Rights Convention campaign called „Nurturing human rights”.

Participants came from 22 member countries of the Council of Europe representing youth NGOs, EYCA member organisations, governments, research institutions as well as the European Steering Committee for Youth (CDEJ) and the Advisory Council on Youth. This GPS presents a summary of the contributions by speakers as well as the outcomes of workshops and plenary discussions.





AN ACADEMIC PERSPECTIVE

“The desire for mobility is being stimulated but the possibilities/ability to move are decreased.”

David Cairns is a Senior Researcher at the Centre for Research and Studies in Sociology, University Institute of Lisbon. His contribution stated that, despite the fact that mobility is for many young people a question of access to employment and studies, it is seriously **under-researched in terms of statistical evidence** (the exception being Erasmus). The lack of basic figures is mostly due to the fact that it is difficult to collect data on people who are on the move.

Why does mobility matter?

- For young people, it is an issue of personal development, education and career advancement.
- For society, it is crucial in terms of demographic changes: aging populations are increasingly unable to support themselves.
- It is perceived also as an issue of social inequality with mobility being traditionally a contributor to rather than a solution for disadvantage.

Barriers and bridges

The most important factor encouraging or discouraging mobility is **family**; however **peer relationships and community attachments** are also influencing young people in their decision to be mobile. **Legal barriers** are largely removed but bureaucratic problems remain and so does the on-going **issue of language** (particularly in English speaking countries). There is a threat posed by the current **economic crisis** when the desire for mobility is being stimulated but the possibilities/ability to move are decreased.

AN EMPLOYER'S PERSPECTIVE

Jacques Spelkens – Head of the Development of CSR Networks at [GDF SUEZ](#) – explained what challenges lie ahead of companies in the changing market with regards to mobility. In GDF Suez (operating in 72 countries worldwide), 100,000 employees will retire by 2015, who need to be replaced (out of which 60% in Europe).

From an employer's point of view

- new talents and skills have to be encouraged at an early age (12-14)
- mobility is also a mind set (changing e.g. your specialisation, being open to life-long learning)

- mobility means being willing to follow where employment projects happen (Latin America, Australia, Middle East)
- interested in the “savoir faire” (technical skills and competencies) but increasingly important is the “savoir être” (personal attitudes and social skills such as team work and time planning)

Global companies like GDF SUEZ would like to work together with NGOs and governments to stimulate physical mobility and mobility of the mind. „Mobility means that you can evolve, adapt, learn, have different

“Careers are no longer linear as they used to be and the new keyword is flexicurity.”

lives,” explains Jacques Spelkens. “Careers are no longer linear as they used to be and the new keyword is ‘[flexicurity](#)’ – flexibility from both employee and employer combined with more security for employees (e.g. in terms of better supported mobility) and for employers retaining the best staff to develop their business.”





A POLICY MAKER'S PERSPECTIVE

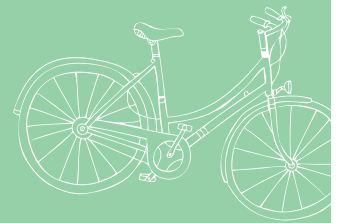
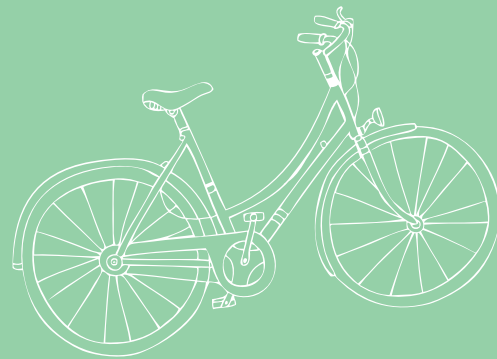
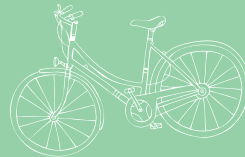
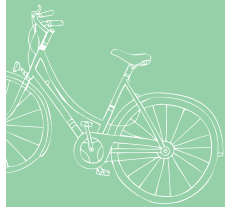


Morana Makovec from the Croatian Ministry of Social Policy and Youth confirmed the lack of research data and pointed out that the absence of hard facts makes it difficult for policy makers to design strategies for youth mobility.

Based on the "Youth in Crisis" study conducted in 2012 in Croatia, 25% of young people aged 15-27 consider moving abroad. Their reasons are mostly economic – lack of employment and desire to achieve higher living standards. For a country, which is threatened by depopulation, the fact that a quarter of young people are seriously considering emigration, is a worrying trend.

How does the Croatian government plan to better understand mobility?

- monitor indicators of different mobilities (cultural, learning, touristic, employment)
- support new research studies
- improve inter-sectoral cooperation between Ministries
- include mobility in National Youth Programme



A EUROPEAN PERSPECTIVE: COUNCIL OF EUROPE

Natalja Turenne works in the Youth Department of Council of Europe (CoE) and is in charge of the [Partial Agreement](#) on Youth Mobility through the Youth Card and is co-responsible for the European Steering Committee for Youth as well as Head of Publications.

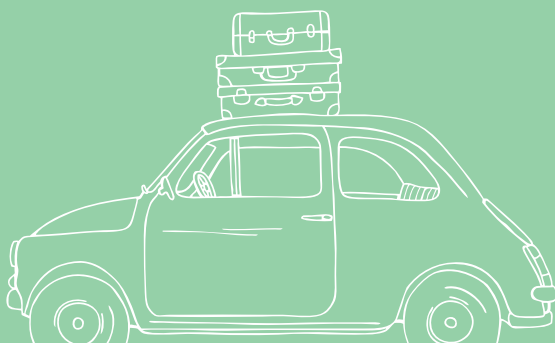
Like all the other speakers, she drew attention to the lack of data, but also pointed to the lack of a clear definition of mobility.

The last CoE conference specifically focused on youth mobility was in 1991 – since then the reality of Europe and its young people has changed dramatically. An agreement on a youth voluntary service within the CoE has been drafted but never signed.

"Since the last CoE conference on youth mobility in 1991 the reality of Europe and its young people has changed dramatically."

The Council of Europe supports young people's mobility through

- multiplier and multicultural/multilateral **educational activities**
- **study sessions** and other events in the European Youth Centres (Budapest, Strasbourg)
- **Partial Agreement** on Youth Mobility through the Youth Card
- European Youth Foundation **grants**



A EUROPEAN PERSPECTIVE: EUROPEAN YOUTH CARD ASSOCIATION

“EYCA wants to work with the CoE to make sure that we make a difference to the real issues in the lives of young people today.”

EYCA President Jarkko Lehtikainen emphasised in his talk that European mobility programmes touch only a small proportion of young people in Europe: 3-4% of the target population have done **Erasmus, Youth in Action** programmes reach 2% and only 0.1% of young people have

been part of **European Voluntary Service.**

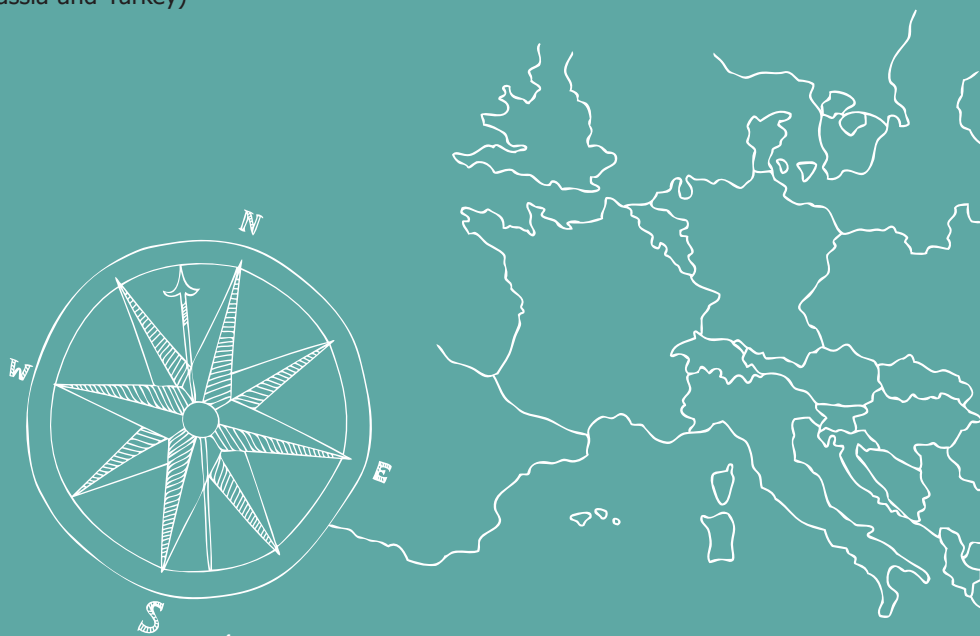
Employability is one aspect of mobility, which is crucially important for young people in Europe today, which EYCA feels it has a particular responsibility to contribute to solutions.

“EYCA wants to work with the CoE to make sure that we make a difference to the real issues in the lives of young people today.”



How can the Partial Agreement on Youth Mobility through the Youth Card contribute to better youth mobility:

- Governments need to understand youth cards and mobility more: need for more opportunities for **knowledge exchange** and learning/training for Governments
- Platform for researchers, policy-makers, practitioners on youth mobility and the use of youth cards
- **Data collection** on youth mobility to help all stakeholders understand trends; specific studies to be commissioned
- Launch national youth policy reviews on youth mobility
- Create a specific working group on particular issues such as visa and how youth cards can play a role (of specific interest e.g. to Ukraine, Russia and Turkey)



SEMINAR

CONCLUSIONS



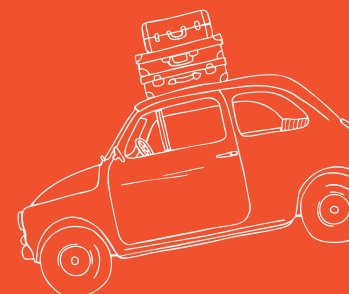
Three workshops addressed different aspects of youth mobility and concluded the following:

Definitions
of youth
mobility

Particular youth mobility
issues for countries
outside of the EU

Partial Agreement
on Youth Mobility through
the Youth Card contributing
to better youth mobility

- There is an urgent need to **(re)define mobility to include all its aspects** (inter-cultural, educational/learning, employment etc.) Differentiated and targeted measures are required to **promote different types of mobility** to meet different types of needs
- Discussion to define youth mobility must include the voices of young people, business and education and other relevant sectors
- Learning mobility is a common thread for all of us, but it is also important to define what kinds of learning. Focus on intercultural and other learning outcomes should be a central driver
- Important to note that crossing a border doesn't necessarily lead to intercultural learning. This needs to be accompanied by some kind of learning experience
- There is very little evidence that **early mobility experiences** lead to transnational labour market mobility – this should be explored more
- There are lots of assumptions around discussion of youth mobility and we need harder evidence
- Barriers to mobility (e.g. visa) are a high-level political issue and should be advocated by the CoE/CDEJ in cooperation with e.g. the European Youth Forum
- **Restructuring of visa regimes:** longer term visa, reduced bureaucracy, preferential approaches for NGOs, issuing free of charge, no requirement of purchasing ticket before receiving visa
- Need for a specific focus on **mobility for disadvantaged and disabled young people** and socially inclusive mobility
- Young people should experience mobility at an early age, for example during school exchanges
- Need to inform those who influence young people – including teachers and parents



CARNET JOVE

ANDORRA



Carnet Jove Andorra is a member organisation in EYCA, issuing the European Youth Card to more than 52% of young people between the age of 12 and 30 in Andorra.

Carnet Jove Andorra is a non-profit organisation that promotes and develops the European Youth Card programme in order to provide more than 350 advantages and services in Andorra, as well as participative projects for young people on youth information, participation, mobility, culture, sports, leisure on national and European level.

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Carnet Jove Viatges is a project run by the Youth Card in Andorra. Young people set out on a journey to a foreign city and turn their experiences into a blog and an online guide, with pictures and stories.

How does it work? Groups of three young people apply by sending a travel programme and an approximate budget of their voyage abroad. The applicants must

be between 18 and 30 years old, must be cardholders and should have knowledge/skills in photography, video editing and social media/blogging. The programme they propose should take into account their accommodation, where to eat, cultural, leisure or other activities of interest – and most importantly – using the discounts offered by the European Youth Card.

The trip lasts five days and the young people write down and photograph all the details of their expedition.

A jury composed of youth card workers and representatives from the Andorran town councils and/or from tourism departments, decides the winners, who become reporters and get to go on a fully paid trip.

The project is financially sponsored solely by Carnet Jove Andorra.

