



**PARTIAL AGREEMENT ON YOUTH MOBILITY
THROUGH THE YOUTH CARD
WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE**

Information document
prepared by the Directorate of Youth and Sport
and the European Youth Card Association

What is the Partial Agreement on Youth Mobility through the Youth Card?

The Partial Agreement was created in 1991. The statute of the Partial Agreement states: “The Partial Agreement shall be aimed at developing the Youth Card scheme, particularly at European level in the best interests of young people under the age of 26 and with a view to facilitating their mobility as well as their access to the various goods and services necessary for their personal and cultural development.”

Board of Coordination

The Board of Coordination is made up of 17 members, that is:

- 8 representatives of Partial Agreement member States in which there are national Youth Card bodies, appointed by the Committee of Ministers;
- 8 members of the European Youth Card Association appointed by the latter;
- 1 representative appointed by the Advisory Council on Youth without the right to vote.

Programme of activities

The aims of the Partial Agreement are achieved through the implementation of a yearly programme of activities, which strictly follows the priorities of the Council of Europe’s youth sector. The programme of activities is carried out as a result of an administrative arrangement between the Council of Europe and the European Youth Card Association (EYCA) based in Bratislava, Slovakia.

1. Human rights and democracy: youth policy and youth work promoting the Council of Europe’s core values.

It is EYCA’s goal to increase the capacity of member organisations and the quality of their work in order for them to produce better offers for facilitating young people’s mobility and promote other EYCA core values. EYCA implements a cycle of quality assurance and evaluation of their member organizations and runs a youth portal www.eyca.org/TRAFO, which aims to be an inspirational platform where young people can share facts, tips, travel stories, motivational speeches, links to other organisations’ campaigns and projects, on topics such as volunteering, responsible travel, and many others.

2. Living together in diverse societies: youth policy and youth work promoting intercultural dialogue.

The EURO<26 European Youth Card promotes youth mobility because EYCA believes that engaging with other cultures teaches invaluable lessons for life. Through providing benefits for travel, accommodation, culture and more, the EURO<26 European Youth Card enables young people to explore Europe as well as to get to know people beyond their hometown and country. EYCA also supports the idea of volunteering as a means of promoting intercultural dialogue, by partnerships with volunteering organizations and programmes and issuing cards for volunteers.

3. Policy approaches and instruments benefiting young people and children.

EYCA enhances international co-operation in the field of youth through organizing seminars, tutorials, round tables and conferences. Various EYCA members are involved in shaping the national youth policies. Through contacts with the cardholders, the EYCA member organisations are ideal communication channels to reach young people. One of EYCA’s priorities is to extend the benefits of the European Youth Card to young people in countries where the card is not established yet. EYCA also uses its broad internal resources - the expertise of its member organisations and their staff - to develop quality programmes disseminating youth information to cardholders and young people in general.

What are the advantages in being a member of the Partial Agreement?

Through the promotion of youth mobility in Europe, the Partial Agreement and its Member States contribute directly to the core values and objectives of the Council of Europe's youth sector, such as international and intercultural understanding, diversity and the fight against racism and intolerance.

Being a member of the Partial Agreement provides an ideal political tool for promoting youth mobility, in particular by backing EURO<26 European Youth Card organisations in their countries in negotiating advantages and discounts for young people (e.g. discounts on transport, accommodation, language courses, theatres, cinemas, festivals, museums etc.).

Member States of the Partial Agreement can nominate members of the Board of co-ordination of the Partial Agreement and, thus, take part in drafting, managing and implementing the programme and budget of the Partial Agreement, as well as in monitoring the implementation of the Youth Card scheme in all the States concerned.

The member states of the Partial Agreement benefit from a number of specific activities in the youth field that are run by EYCA and notably:

- Partial Agreement members especially profit in the development and strengthening of efficient online and offline youth communication channels like European Youth Card magazines, guidebooks, websites, newsletters etc. Those communication channels are an important tool to support national youth policy as well as European and international cross media youth campaigns - at the moment, more than 4 million youth cardholders in 38 countries can be reached directly by European Youth Card media.
- All the benefits mentioned above are not just to be looked at in terms of figures - PA member countries can participate in exchange programmes to visit other European Youth Card organisations to study their programme. They have the opportunity to study their discount development, their fundraising programme etc. to be inspired but also to prevent making expensive mistakes.

Procedure for joining the Partial Agreement

Any member State of the Council of Europe and any State party to the European Cultural Convention may join the Partial Agreement at any moment by making a declaration to this effect to the Secretary General. This consists in sending an official letter or a verbal note from the Minister of Foreign Affairs or from the Permanent Representative of the country to the Council of Europe addressed to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe.

On a proposal by the European Youth Card Association and the Board of co-ordination of the Partial Agreement, the Committee of Ministers may invite any non-member State of the Council of Europe to join the Partial Agreement, following the consultation of any other non-member States already participating.

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