



THE NATIONAL PROCESSES within the EYWA implementation **Report 2025.**

THE STATE OF PLAY OF NATIONAL PROCESSES WITHIN THE EUROPEAN YOUTH WORK AGENDA IMPLEMENTATION

—

SURVEY REPORT 2025

Published by:

JUGEND für Europa

National Agency for the EU programmes Erasmus+ Youth, Erasmus+ Sport and European Solidarity Corps
Godesberger Allee 142-148
53175 Bonn
Germany
www.jugendfuereuropa.de
www.growingyouthwork.eu

On behalf of:

SNAC 'Growing Youth Work'

<https://www.growingyouthwork.eu/about/snac/>

Written by:

Frederike Hofmann-van de Poll

May 2025

The legal entity of JUGEND für Europa, National Agency for the EU programmes Erasmus+ Youth, Erasmus+ Sport and European Solidarity Corps in Germany, is IJAB – Fachstelle für Internationale Jugendarbeit der Bundesrepublik Deutschland e. V. with registered office in Bonn, VR 3584 Amtsgericht Bonn.

The content of this publication reflects the views only of the author. The European Commission and JUGEND für Europa as well as the SNAC partners are not liable for any consequences resulting from the re-use of the publication.





THE NATIONAL PROCESSES within the EYWA implementation **Report 2025.**

Content

List of figures	3
Executive summary.....	5
Introduction.....	8
1. Overall development and coordination.....	14
1.1. Developments.....	14
1.2. Coordination	17
2. The eight priority areas.....	22
2.1. Quality development	27
2.2. Promotion and recognition.....	31
2.3. Policy frameworks.....	33
2.4. A strategic framework for youth work development.....	36
2.5. Develop and expand the youth work offer.....	38
2.6. A common direction for the youth work community of practice.....	39
2.7. Innovation and emerging challenges.....	43
2.8. Beyond the youth work community of practice	45
2.9. Youth work challenges.....	46
2.10. Conclusions on the eight priority areas	48
3. Challenges and support	49
3.1. Challenges for the EYWA implementation	49
3.2. Support	52
3.3. Mutual learning interests	57
4. The European Youth Work Agenda and local youth work.....	60
5. Outlook: the 4th European Youth Work Convention	63
5.1. EYWA and the topics of the Convention.....	63
5.2. Messages to the 4th European Youth Work Convention	66
6. Conclusions	71
6.1. Questions for discussion	73



THE NATIONAL PROCESSES within the EYWA implementation **Report 2025.**

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1: The 30 national processes covered by survey respondents in 2025.....	12
Figure 2: The 20 national processes covered by survey respondents in the surveys of 2023, 2024, and 2025	13
Figure 3: Development of national processes from 2022 to 2025.....	15
Figure 4: Progress with the development of youth work within the EYWA implementation process, on a scale of 1 (no progress) to 4 (remarkable progress)	16
Figure 5: Progress with the development of youth work within the EYWA implementation process, as perceived by recurrent respondents, on a scale of 1 (no progress) to 4 (remarkable progress).....	16
Figure 6: Organisational background of national contact points in 2023, 2024, and 2025	17
Figure 7: Actors principally responsible for managing/coordinating the EYWA implementation process (all processes).....	18
Figure 8: Actors principally responsible for managing/coordinating the EYWA implementation process (recurrent respondents).....	19
Figure 9: Stakeholders involved in the national EYWA implementation process (all processes)	20
Figure 10: Stakeholders involved in the national EYWA implementation process (recurrent respondents).....	20
Figure 11: Answers to the questions ‘Which of the eight thematic priority areas do you consider particularly relevant when it comes to your work?’ (2023, 2024, 2025) and ‘In which areas are you planning to be active this year?’ (2025), all processes.....	23
Figure 12: Answers to the questions ‘Which of the eight thematic priority areas do you consider particularly relevant when it comes to your work?’ (2023, 2024, 2025) and ‘In which areas are you planning to be active this year?’ (2025), recurrent processes.	25
Figure 13: Countries considering ‘quality development’ as a particularly relevant thematic priority area in 2025 when it comes to youth work.....	28
Figure 14: Countries considering ‘promotion and recognition’ as a particularly relevant thematic priority area in 2025 when it comes to youth work	32
Figure 15: Countries considering ‘policy frameworks’ as a particularly relevant thematic priority area in 2025 when it comes to youth work.....	35



THE NATIONAL PROCESSES

within the EYWA implementation **Report 2025.**

Figure 16: Countries considering ‘a strategic framework for youth work development’ as a particularly relevant thematic priority area in 2025 when it comes to youth work.....	37
Figure 17: Countries considering ‘develop and expand the youth work offer’ as a particularly relevant thematic priority area in 2025 when it comes to youth work	38
Figure 18: Countries considering ‘a common direction for the youth work community of practice’ as a particularly relevant thematic priority area in 2025 when it comes to youth work	41
Figure 19: Countries considering ‘innovation and emerging challenges’ as a particularly relevant thematic priority area in 2025 when it comes to youth work	44
Figure 20: Countries considering ‘beyond the youth work community of practice’ as a particularly relevant thematic priority area in 2025 when it comes to youth work.....	45
Figure 21: % of respondents who needed a certain kind of support from the European level in 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025	53
Figure 22: % of respondents who needed a certain kind of support from the national level in 2023, 2024, and 2025	54
Figure 23: % of the respondents from the group of recurrent respondents who needed support from the European level in 2023, 2024, and 2025	55
Figure 24: % of the respondents from the group of recurrent respondents who needed support from the national level in 2023, 2024, and 2025.....	55
Figure 25: % of respondents who would like to see mutual learning projects in the respective priority areas	58



THE NATIONAL PROCESSES within the EYWA implementation **Report 2025.**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report presents and analyses the results of the 2025 survey on the implementation of the European Youth Work Agenda (EYWA) in 30 national processes.

After years of increasing, the number of countries and national processes active in the EYWA implementation has stabilised for the time being. There are currently a total of 34 countries (36 processes) recorded as being engaged based on their participation in the survey on national processes and/or their nomination of a person or organisation listed on the Growing Youth Work website as a National Contact Point. The national processes being reported on are of different scopes and are strengthening and developing youth work at varying speeds. The upcoming 4th European Youth Work Convention in Malta, May 2025, is being seen as a rallying point for strengthening and developing youth work at European, national, regional, and local levels.

Building on a comparison of the findings of the 2023 and 2024 surveys, this report offers new insights into the progress and challenges of youth work across Europe. Following the established analytical group of recurrent respondents, a data comparison is possible for 20 of the national processes, which were covered in the surveys of 2023, 2024, and 2025.

Even though the number of processes is stabilising, the perceived progress within these processes, at all levels, is greatly increasing. This suggests that the idea to develop a European-wide driven process and agenda to strengthen and develop youth work at local, regional, national, and European levels has been fruitful. The continuous efforts of the SNAC 'Growing Youth Work', to bring people and organisations interested in the EYWA together, has contributed to the growing of the network. Regarding further steps after the 4th European Youth Work Convention, including the announced development of a roadmap, this network may provide a fertile ground for the further developments of youth work in Europe.

According to the respondents, 'quality development' and 'promotion and recognition' (particularly recognition) are considered to be the two main thematic priority areas relevant to most processes. Whereas 'beyond the youth work community of practice' (specifically cross-sectoral cooperation) continues to be perceived as having low relevance.



THE NATIONAL PROCESSES

within the EYWA implementation **Report 2025.**

The lack of recognition and political support, materialising as a result of austerity measures, remains a key challenge to the development of youth work in Europe. Furthermore, many countries still do not recognise the youth worker as an official profession. This impedes the development of youth worker careers, standardised education and training, and accreditation. It also impacts on organisations being able to find and keep youth work professionals. There is a strong need for the professionalisation of the work field, for example through evidence-based standards and ethics for youth workers, youth work offers, and programmes. Having structured education and training with different qualification levels as well as the recognition of non-formally or informally acquired competencies, could strengthen youth work as a profession.

Regarding the implementation of the EYWA at local level, there is a clear need for a concise definition of the priority areas. There is also a need for a monitoring system and coordination between the activities of governmental and non-governmental actors at European, national, regional, and local levels. Regarding the effects of the EYWA on the development of local youth work, the findings are mixed. One group of countries attests that the EYWA is having a positive effect through empowering national context related processes. The EYWA is used to support the professionalisation of youth work, strengthen participation, and bring together structures connecting local and European levels.

Another group of countries reports that the EYWA has only had an indirect or limited effect on local youth work, because structural mechanisms of systemic implementation are missing. Although there is an increased understanding of the importance of synergies between European and national processes and local youth work, the practical implementation often remains disconnected and lacking in individual engagement. A third group of countries sees hardly any influence of the EYWA at local level. This is because the national process is neither sufficiently known nor anchored. Rather, national laws and political measures influence local youth work.

The SNAC 'Europe Goes Local' could provide a pivotal role for connecting the EYWA to the local level. Through its Europe-wide partnerships and specific instruments, it contributes to the strengthening of local youth work and includes the EYWA as a strategic framework.

However, without dedicated local funding and structured support, national efforts remain theoretical rather than resulting in tangible improvements in youth work practice on the ground. Addressing this disconnection requires stronger mechanisms to ensure that local



THE NATIONAL PROCESSES within the EYWA implementation **Report 2025.**

authorities align with national strategies, commit adequate budgets, and recognise the essential role of youth work in community development.

Regarding the 4th European Youth Work Convention, there is a clear call to make the relationship between the eight priority areas and the 4th European Youth Work Convention and its three convention themes visible. This is needed to show the continuous process of the Conventions. Rather than starting a new process from scratch at each Convention, the recommendations from the previous Convention(s) should be evaluated and followed up. This report includes a matrix integrating the eight priority areas into the three 4th Convention themes (see Chapter 5).

After the 4th European Youth Work Convention, there is an urgent need for a robust network and communication strategy to transfer the outcomes of the Convention and its roadmap into concrete measures. Such a network and communication strategy should include structures and cooperation mechanisms for all stakeholders to offer them the possibility of contributing to the strengthening of youth work within the roadmap as an overarching strategic framework. A connection between the roadmap and the ministerial conference for ministers responsible for youth of the Council of Europe in October 2025 in Malta would strengthen this process. This connection would need to include an appeal to governments to follow up on the roadmap, both with financial and personnel resources.



THE NATIONAL PROCESSES within the EYWA implementation **Report 2025.**

INTRODUCTION

On the eve of the 4th European Youth Work Convention, youth work is practiced across Europe with a range of actors, visions, practices, and methods, but also challenges. Some of these practices and challenges have appeared against the background of multiple crises that have hit both young people and the practice of youth work during the past few years. Other practices and challenges have been apparent in youth work since the first European Youth Work Convention in 2010. These practices and challenges are connected by the European Youth Work Conventions, which have become an institutionalised arena where youth work actors and stakeholders come together to discuss the development and strengthening of youth work throughout Europe.

During the first two Conventions, 2010 in Ghent, Belgium, and 2015 in Brussels, Belgium, discussions on youth work followed the strands of celebrating the diversity of youth work and finding common ground. Looking back at the ten years after the first Convention up to the 3rd European Youth Work Convention in 2020, this period is not only marked by diversity and common ground in practice, but also by the establishment of a political youth work narrative. This includes a Europe-wide understanding of the definition, means, and goals of youth work. These were laid down in the 2017 Council of Europe Recommendation CM(Rec)2017/4 on youth work¹ and further anchored in the European Union (EU) by the 2020 Council Resolution on the establishment of a framework for implementing the European Youth Work Agenda² and the 2024 Council Resolution on youth work policy for a democratic Europe³.

The 3rd European Youth Work Convention was held as an online event which was broadcast from Bonn, Germany. This marked a second phase in the history of the European Youth Work Conventions, introducing a stronger focus on strengthening and developing youth work practice through the connecting element of a European Youth Work Agenda. The announced

¹ Council of Europe Recommendation CM/Rec(2017)4 of the Committee of Ministers to Member States on youth work. <https://rm.coe.int/1680717e78> [15 March 2025].

² Resolution of the Council and of the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States meeting within the Council on the Framework for establishing a European Youth Work Agenda (2020/C 415/01). <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=OJ:C:2020:415:TOC> [15 March 2025].

³ Resolution of the Council and of the representatives of the governments of the Member States meeting within the Council on youth work policy in an empowering Europe (C/2024/3526). <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/C/2024/3526/oj> [15 March 2025].



THE NATIONAL PROCESSES

within the EYWA implementation **Report 2025.**

development of a European ‘roadmap towards a European strategy for youth work policy implementation, recognition, and quality practice’ in the aftermath of the upcoming 4th European Youth Work Convention complements these endeavours and should further strengthen and develop youth work in Europe.

This report follows up on the European Youth Work Agenda, the eight priority areas introduced in the Final Declaration of the 3rd European Youth Work Convention, and their implementation in national processes throughout Europe. Being called for at the 2nd European Youth Work Convention in 2015⁴, the EYWA was launched at the 3rd European Youth Work Convention in Bonn in 2020. In the initial years following the Convention, the EYWA implementation process was labelled as the Bonn Process. The past years have shown that the EYWA, driven by the European youth work community of practice⁵ as the main stakeholders, is fostering a common European response to structural and professional challenges in the field of youth work.

To support youth work development within the EYWA implementation process, 16 EU Erasmus+ Youth programme National Agencies and SALTO Youth Resource Centres are engaged in a long-term strategic cooperation project. This Strategic National Agency Cooperation (SNAC) is entitled ‘Growing Youth Work’⁶ and is coordinated by JUGEND für

⁴ Declaration of the 2nd European Youth Work Convention. Making a world of difference. Brussels, 27-30 April 2015. https://pip-eu.coe.int/documents/42128013/47262187/The+2nd+European+Youth+Work+Declaration_FINAL.pdf/cc602b1d-6efc-46d9-80ec-5ca57c35eb85?t=1431337538000 [15 March 2025].

⁵ “In the field of youth work, the youth work community of practice should be understood as a group of people, professional or non-professional, who share the same interests in resolving an issue, improving their skills, and learning from each other’s experiences. The youth work community of practice comprises stakeholders at all levels from local to European level.” Resolution of the Council and of the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States meeting within the Council on the Framework for establishing a European Youth Work Agenda (2020/C 415/01). <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=OJ:C:2020:415:TOC> [15 March 2025].

⁶ The SNAC ‘Growing Youth Work’ was preceded by the SNAC ‘Strengthening Youth Work in Europe by Supporting the Implementation of the European Youth Work Agenda!’ (SNAC ‘EYWA’), which ran from 2021 to 2024. The SNAC aims to elevate the importance of youth work, emphasising its critical role in the lives of young people and democratic societies. The project is contributing to putting the European Youth Work Agenda into action by offering support, encouraging coordinated and strategic efforts, and creating opportunities for youth work professionals, including mobilisation of the EU youth programmes for youth work development. Thus, the cooperation develops a network to strengthen youth work across Europe together. The strategic cooperation partners of the SNAC ‘Growing Youth Work’ are the National Agencies for Erasmus+ Youth and the European Solidarity Corps in Austria, Belgium (Flanders), Croatia, Cyprus, Estonia, Germany (coordinator), Hungary, Italy, Malta, the Netherlands, North Macedonia, Portugal,



THE NATIONAL PROCESSES

within the EYWA implementation **Report 2025.**

Europa, the National Agency for the EU programmes Erasmus+ Youth, European Solidarity Corps and Erasmus+ Sport in Germany. The main areas of work of this SNAC include providing information and facilitating communication, organising networking opportunities, providing thematic impulses, mobilising the EU youth programmes for youth work development in the context of the EYWA, and supporting the individual national processes. In this context, a range of activities supporting national processes within the EYWA implementation process are carried out all over Europe. Of particular relevance is the yearly 'Exchange Forum on the European Youth Work Agenda. Boosting national processes for youth work development'⁷. This Forum brings together key stakeholders who are involved in shaping national processes for youth work development.

The first Exchange Forum, held in May 2022, was preceded by a short survey on the existence of national processes in Europe. The survey revealed a gradual emergence of the process in a youth work field still struggling with the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. There were 18 national processes that were known to have started in 2022⁸, they generally had a focus on quality development and communication. In preparation for the Exchange Forums of 2023 and 2024, a new and extended survey was carried out in the Spring of both years with results published in the Autumn of 2023⁹ and 2024¹⁰. The aim was to get a more in-depth overview of the state of play of EYWA implementation.

In February 2025, the extended survey was conducted a third time with the goal to provide an in-depth overview of the past years of EYWA implementation. It is to serve as a background for

Slovenia, and Türkiye as well as SALTO Training and Cooperation and SALTO Eastern Europe and Caucasus. More information is available at: <https://www.growingyouthwork.eu/about/snac/> [15 March 2025].

⁷ At the first two editions of 2022 and 2023, the event was called 'Bonn Process Exchange Forum on National Processes'. After the third edition 2024, a fourth edition is planned to take place in Skopje, North-Macedonia, from 2 to 5 December 2025.

⁸ Hofmann-van de Poll, Frederike and Kovačić, Marko (2022): One year into the Bonn Process – A preliminary analysis of national-level developments. Youth Partnership. Strasbourg, unpublished paper.

⁹ Hofmann-van de Poll, Frederike (2023): The State of Play of National Processes within the Bonn Process. Survey Report 2023. Bonn: JUGEND für Europa.

https://www.growingyouthwork.eu/downloads/publications/52/Bonn_Process_2023_State_of_Play_Survey_Report.pdf?version=1562ccd5ab0957221063fc28aab174aa [15 March 2025].

¹⁰ Hofmann-van de Poll, Frederike (2024): The State of Play of National Processes within the European Youth Work Agenda Implementation. Survey Report 2024. Bonn: JUGEND für Europa.

https://www.growingyouthwork.eu/downloads/publications/62/Bonn-Process_Survey-Report_national-processes_2024.pdf?version=1dfe5f8b1b31a54d3be1cf417fc78b41 [15 March 2025].



THE NATIONAL PROCESSES

within the EYWA implementation **Report 2025.**

discussions at the 4th European Youth Work Convention. The 2025 survey was sent to 152 people¹¹ in 44 countries¹². Questions were asked about stakeholders, priority areas, implemented and upcoming activities as well as needs for support and mutual learning. Due to the interests expressed at the Exchange Forum 2024, a question on the impact of the EYWA on local youth work was added. Another addition was a space for respondents to write messages to the 4th European Youth Work Convention. Of the 152 contacted persons, there were 34 respondents, covering a total of 30 national processes (marked in the figures as all-proc) from 28 countries. In four cases, two persons answered the survey for one national process. Within the framework of the analysis, these answers were combined to allow comparability between national processes.

¹¹ The 152 people in 44 countries were composed of the mailing list maintained by the SNAC 'Growing Youth Work', partner organisations involved in the SNAC 'Growing Youth Work' as well as the SALTO Youth Resource Centres (South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe and Caucasus, Euro-Med Region, Inclusion and Diversity, Participation and Information, Training and Cooperation, and European Solidarity Corps). There is no contact information on the European Youth Work Agenda and the Bonn Process for Denmark, Kazakhstan, Liechtenstein, Monaco, San Marino, the Holy See, and the United Kingdom. The Russian Federation and Belarus, the latter participating in the 2022 survey and confirming the start of a national process, were not contacted for the 2023, 2024, and 2025 surveys following Russia's exclusion from the Council of Europe and the suspension of the Council of Europe's relations with Belarus as a result of the Russian Federation's war of aggression in Ukraine.

¹² Reference to countries includes Belgium as one country. Reference to national processes splits the country Belgium into three different national processes as three different national processes have been set up in the three Communities: in the Flemish Community of Belgium (BE-FL), in the French-speaking Community of Belgium (BE-FR), and in the German-speaking Community of Belgium (BE-GER).



THE NATIONAL PROCESSES within the EYWA implementation **Report 2025.**

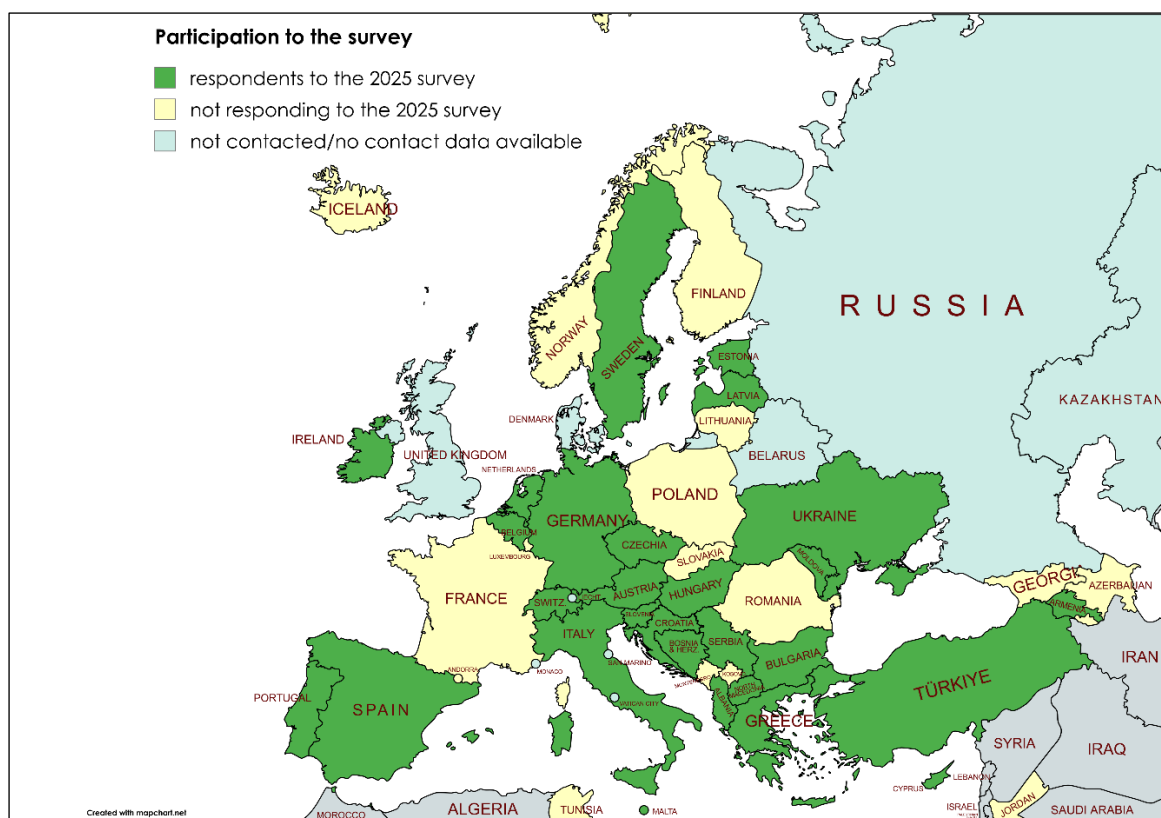


Figure 1: The 30 national processes covered by survey respondents in 2025

With three of the national processes covering the three Communities in Belgium, the above map (Figure 1) shows the 28 countries (and subsequently 30 national processes) which the respondents of the survey covered.

At the same time, the survey identified an analytical group of 20 processes¹³ that responded to all three surveys of 2023, 2024, and 2025 (Figure 2). In some sections, the data from this group of recurrent respondents was additionally analysed to gain more precise insights into the developmental line between 2023 and 2025.

¹³ In the 2024 survey, a recurrent group of respondents of 21 processes was identified. As Slovakia did not answer the survey in 2025, the recurrent group of respondents now consists of 20 processes.



THE NATIONAL PROCESSES within the EYWA implementation **Report 2025.**

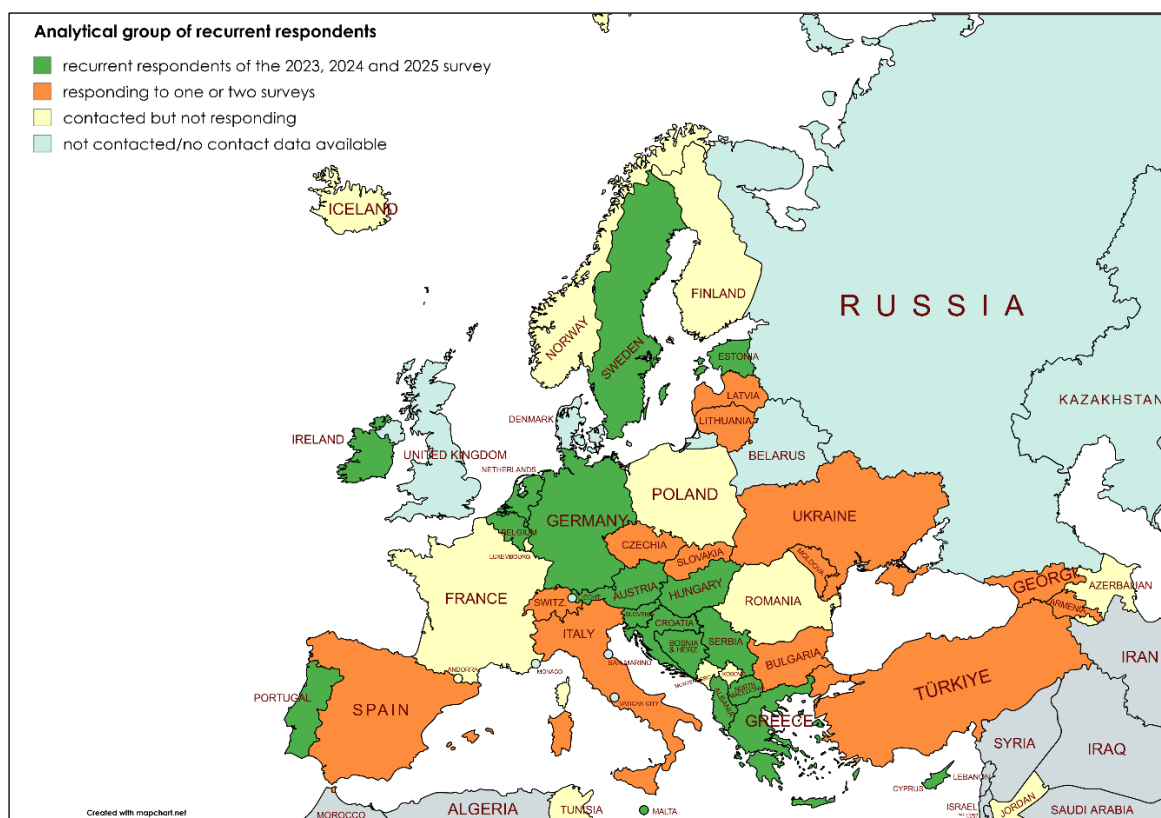


Figure 2: The 20 national processes covered by survey respondents in the surveys of 2023, 2024, and 2025

The present report discusses the findings of the 2025 survey, comparing them with the previous 2023 and 2024 surveys. It does so in six sections. First, the findings on the development and coordination of the EYWA implementation process are analysed. This is followed by a second section that looks at the developments within the eight priority areas of the EYWA. The third section, as in previous reports, discusses the challenges stakeholders face when implementing the EYWA, and their needs in terms of coordination and support. New to the report is the fourth section, which covers the impact of the EYWA on local youth work. The fifth section looks at the upcoming 4th European Youth Work Convention. Finally, the sixth section serves as a critical reflection on the findings in general, presenting several conclusions and questions.



THE NATIONAL PROCESSES within the EYWA implementation **Report 2025.**

1. OVERALL DEVELOPMENT AND COORDINATION

This section analyses the general developments of the European Youth Work Agenda (EYWA) implementation processes in Europe (section 1.1.) and how these processes are being coordinated and supported in the individual countries (section 1.2.).

1.1. DEVELOPMENTS

The number of 34 countries active in implementing the EYWA compared to 2024 (35 processes in 33 countries) is steady. This is not surprising after the increase of the last years, going from 17 processes in 2022 to 36 in 2025 (34 countries). The indicator of being active in implementing the EYWA is composed of either having participated in the EYWA Implementation Survey and/or having a National Contact Point listed at the Growing Youth Work website¹⁴. Figure 3 shows how the number of national processes has steadily increased from 2022 to 2025.

¹⁴ <https://www.growingyouthwork.eu/be-part-of-it/bonn-process-in-my-country/> [15 March 2025]



THE NATIONAL PROCESSES within the EYWA implementation **Report 2025.**



Figure 3: Development of national processes from 2022 to 2025

Respondents to the survey were asked about the perceived progress made in the EYWA implementation process at different levels (Figure 4). On a scale of 1 (no progress) to 4 (remarkable progress), they indicated that overall, there is a continuous, and over the years increasing, level of progress in the developments of youth work. Interestingly, conclusions from 2024 have been turned around. In 2024, progress was perceived primarily at European level, whereas in 2025, national, regional, and local levels are perceived as having an increase in progress. Particularly at regional and local levels, this increase of perceived progress is remarkably high compared to previous years.



THE NATIONAL PROCESSES within the EYWA implementation **Report 2025.**

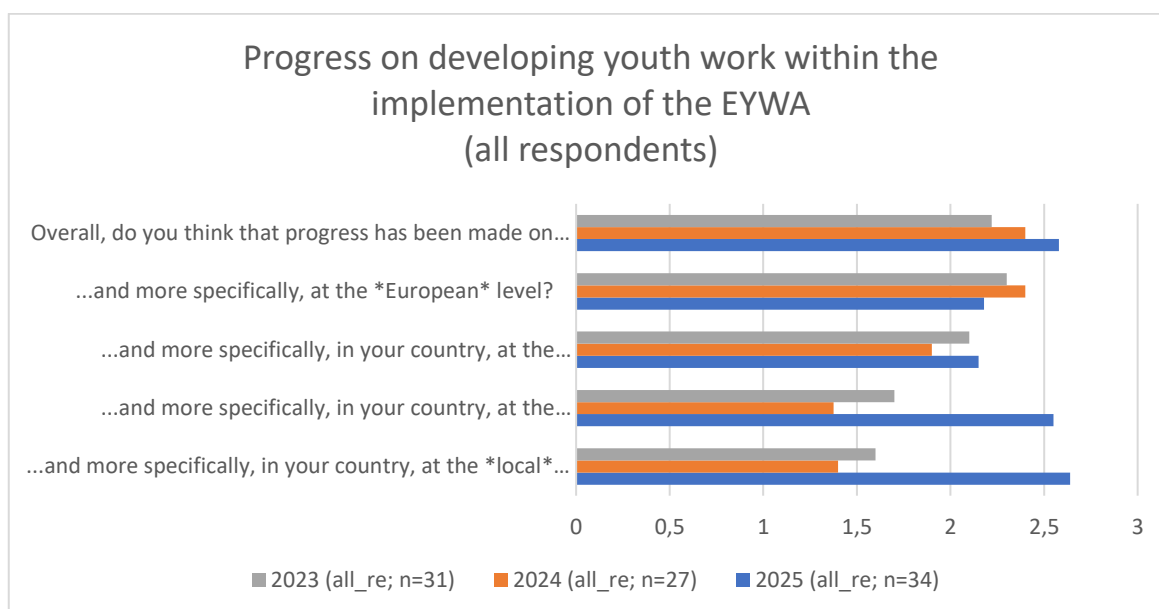


Figure 4: Progress with the development of youth work within the EYWA implementation process on a scale of 1 (no progress) to 4 (remarkable progress)

However, if we look at the group of recurrent respondents (see Figure 5), a different picture emerges. Here all levels have increased the perceived progress of developing youth work within the EYWA implementation process.

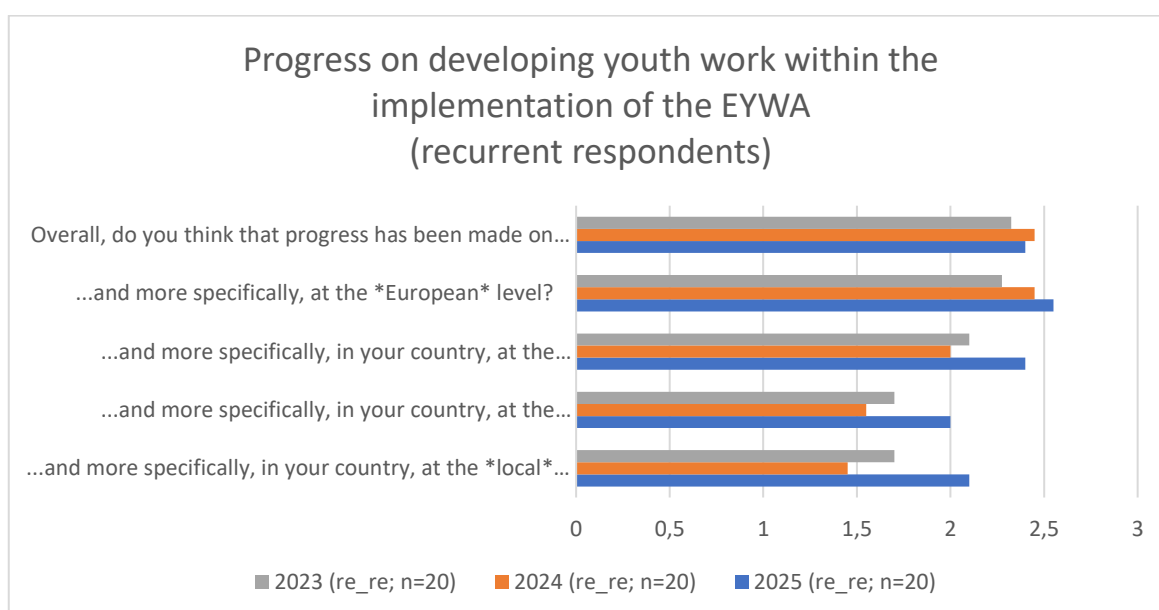


Figure 5: Progress with the development of youth work within the EYWA implementation process, as perceived by recurrent respondents, on a scale of 1 (no progress) to 4 (remarkable progress)



THE NATIONAL PROCESSES within the EYWA implementation **Report 2025.**

1.2. COORDINATION

In the framework of the survey, 'coordination' is understood as a general term for different approaches to shaping national processes of EYWA implementation, including but not limited to the consolidation of measures and activities, communication, and support. Many countries have appointed a so-called National Contact Point as a coordinating office for the implementation of the EYWA. On the SNAC 'Growing Youth Work' website, there are 36 of them listed¹⁵.

Figure 6 shows that most National Contact Points have an organisational background either as a national ministry for youth or as the National Agency for Erasmus+ Youth and the European Solidarity Corps programmes. In a few countries, national youth worker organisations, national youth councils, and youth (work) organisations have a (shared) coordinating role. The differences between the years are due to different countries responding to the survey in 2023, 2024, and 2025.

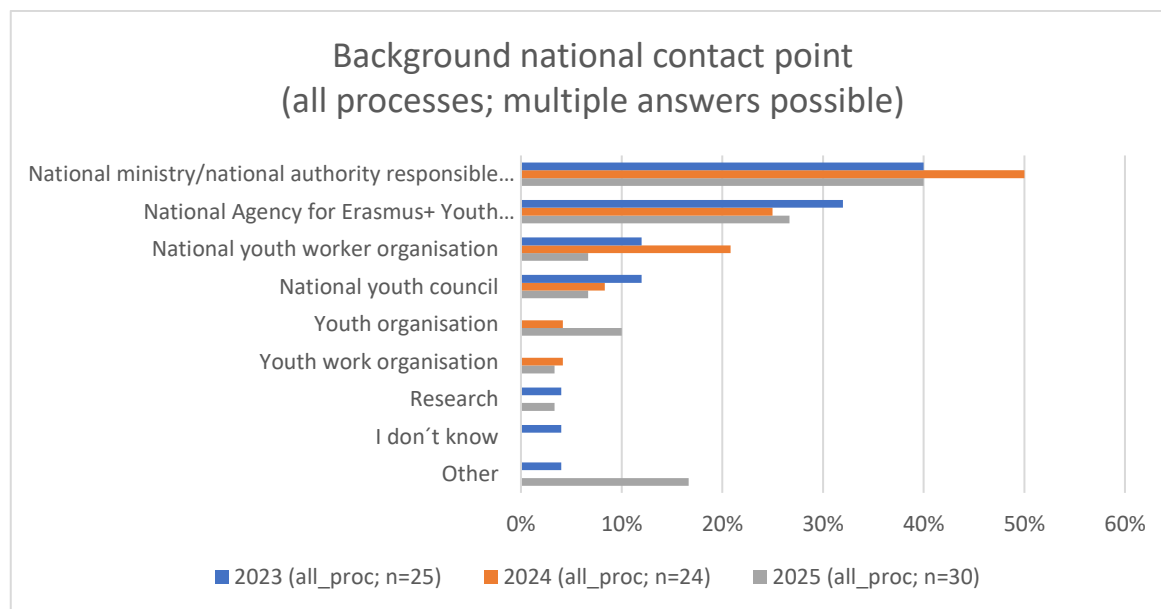


Figure 6: Organisational background of national contact points in 2023, 2024, and 2025

¹⁵ These persons are in most cases, but not per se the same as the people who answered the survey.
<https://www.growingyouthwork.eu/be-part-of-it/bonn-process-in-my-country/> [11 April 2025].



THE NATIONAL PROCESSES

within the EYWA implementation **Report 2025.**

In most processes, the National Contact Point is managing and coordinating the EYWA implementation process in the country (Figure 7). Differences between the years are mainly due to different respondents in each year's survey, as figure 8 shows. Within the group of recurrent respondents, there are differences between the years as well. It appears that in some countries, processes have been re-organised with responsibility being shared between two organisations – in most cases the national ministry and the National Agency.

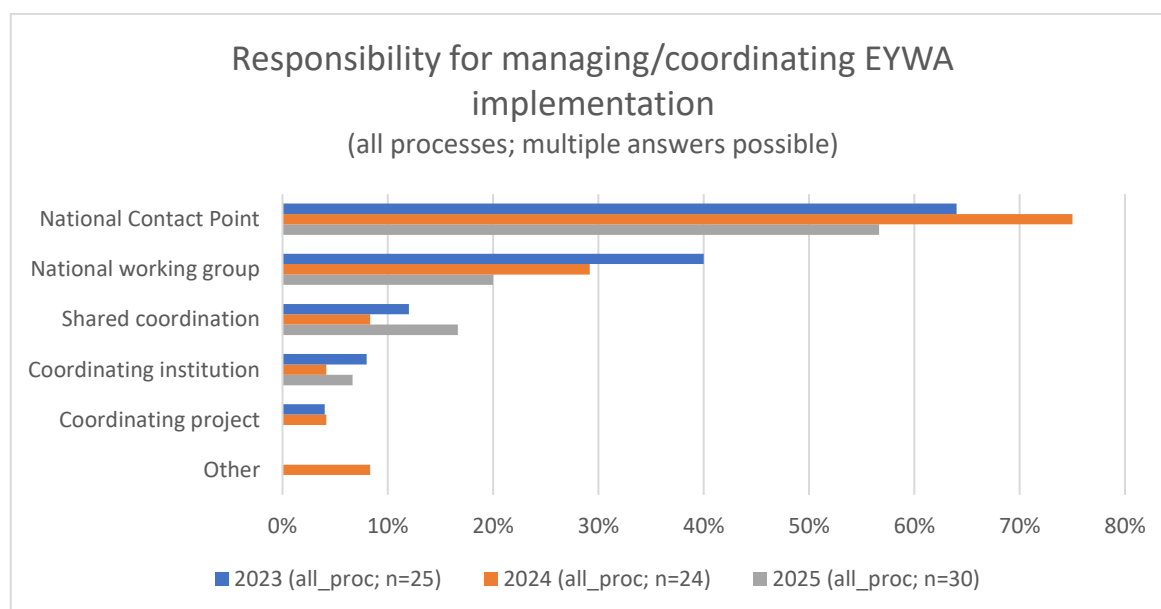


Figure 7: Actors principally responsible for managing/coordinating the EYWA implementation process (all processes)



THE NATIONAL PROCESSES

within the EYWA implementation **Report 2025.**

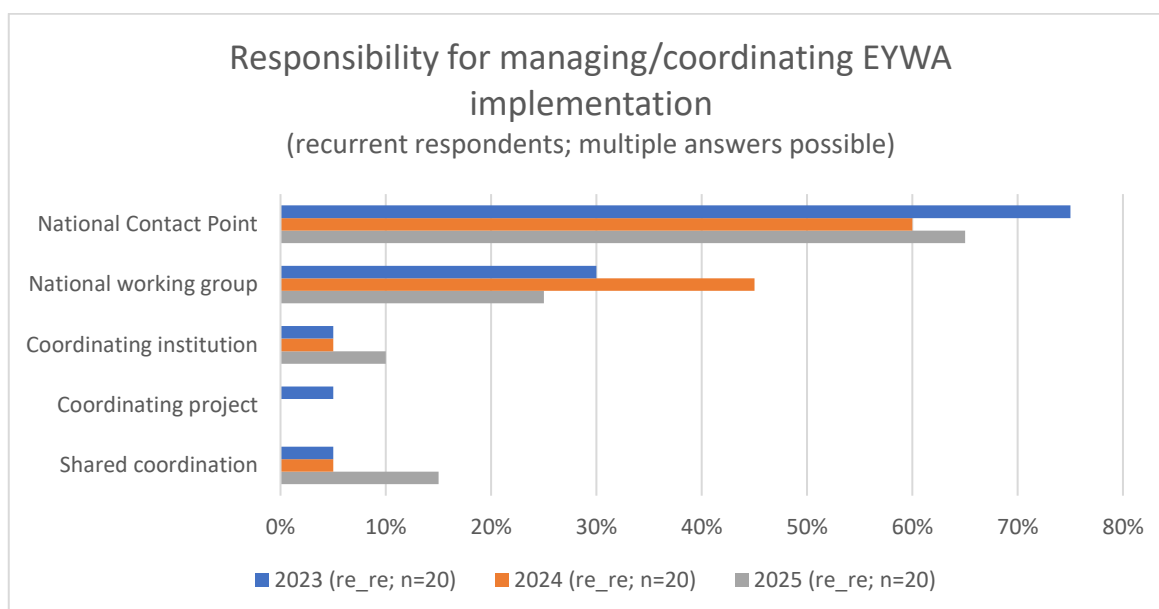


Figure 8: Actors principally responsible for managing/coordinating the EYWA implementation process (recurrent respondents)

Regarding the overall findings of the 2025 survey, in 14 out of the 30 processes the National Contact Point was supported by a working group. Of these 14 processes, there were six processes where a national working group was mentioned as the central actor coordinating the EYWA implementation process. Five of these belonged to the group of recurrent respondents.

The importance of both the national youth ministries and the National Agencies for the EU youth programmes regarding the national EYWA implementation processes, is also visible when it comes to the involved stakeholders (figure 9). The noted decline of involvement of youth organisations and researchers in the Survey Report 2024, seems to have been an anomaly. Among the recurrent respondents, the involvement of youth work organisations and researchers in 2025 matches and even outreaches the 2023 values. Interestingly, there seems to be a development to increasingly involve youth work organisations and national youth councils in EYWA implementation processes. This may be due to the increased efforts to bring the EYWA to the local level, thus including youth work organisations working at local level.



THE NATIONAL PROCESSES

within the EYWA implementation **Report 2025.**

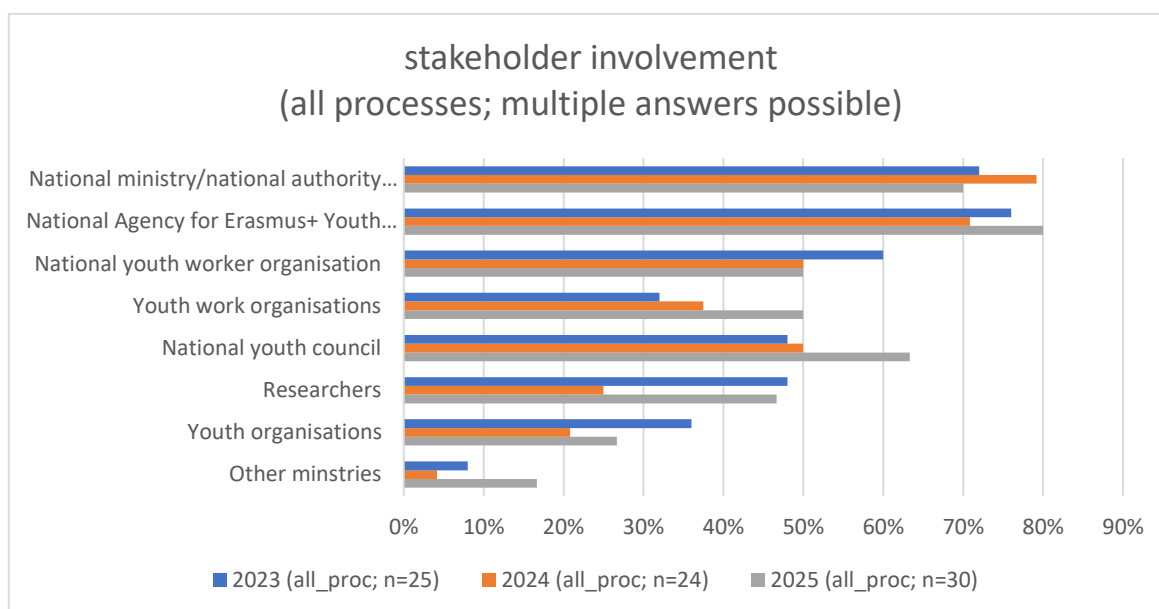


Figure 9: Stakeholders involved in the national EYWA implementation process (all processes)

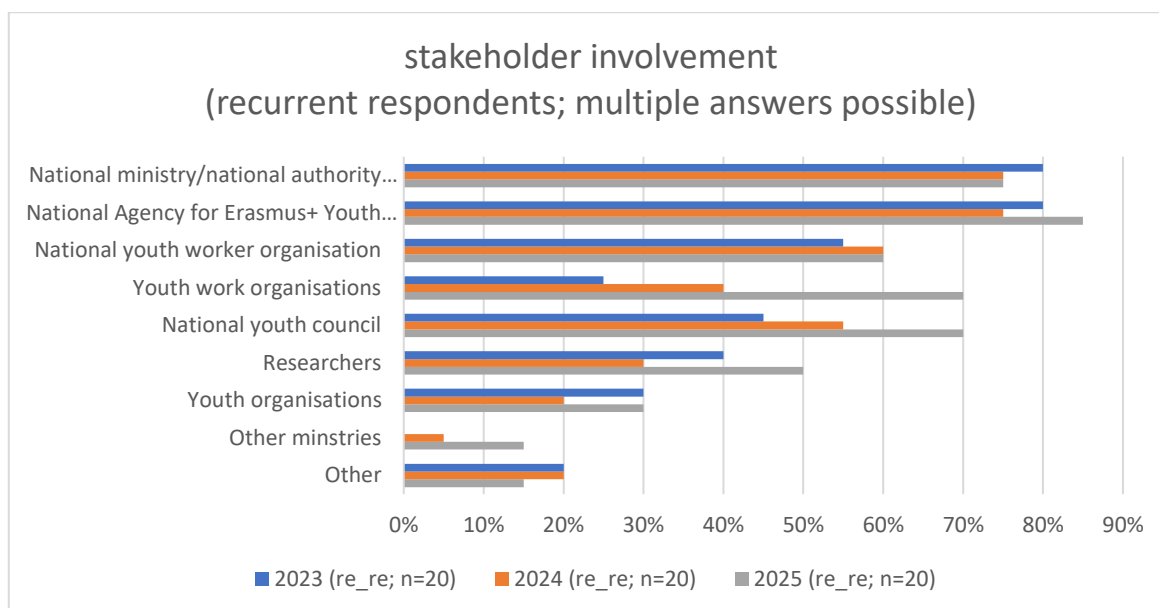


Figure 10: Stakeholders involved in the national EYWA implementation process (recurrent respondents)

In conclusion, there is a continuous evolution of development and coordination of the EYWA implementation processes. While the number of processes is stabilising, the perceived progress within these processes, at all levels, is greatly increasing. This suggests that the idea to develop a European-wide driven process and the EYWA to strengthen and develop youth



THE NATIONAL PROCESSES within the EYWA implementation **Report 2025.**

work at local, regional, national, and European level has been fruitful. The continuous efforts of the SNAC 'Growing Youth Work' to bring people and organisations together who are interested in the EYWA has contributed to the growing of a network. Regarding further steps after the 4th European Youth Work Convention and the announced development of a roadmap, this network can provide a fertile ground for the further development of youth work in Europe.

The next chapter takes a closer look at the contents of the EYWA and how the eight priority areas have been implemented.



THE NATIONAL PROCESSES within the EYWA implementation **Report 2025.**

2. THE EIGHT PRIORITY AREAS

The Final Declaration of the 3rd European Youth Work Convention¹⁶ mentions eight fields of action which are commonly known as the eight priority areas of the EYWA. They are:

- develop and expand the youth work offer,
- quality development,
- a common direction for the youth work community of practice,
- beyond the youth work community of practice,
- promotion and recognition,
- innovation and emerging challenges,
- policy frameworks,
- a strategic framework for youth work development.

Each of the eight priority areas has its own description and meaning while at the same time they are all closely interlinked. This became particularly evident in the 2024 Survey Report, where this interlinkage between the eight priority areas was considered to be one of the main challenges of the EYWA. Figure 11 shows the development of the relevance of the eight priority areas over the years and includes a forecast for the near future. Regarding the forecast however, several respondents pointed out that the outcomes of the 4th European Youth Work Convention may influence their future priorities.

There may also be different interpretations of what a priority area is or is not. Some answers suggest a priority area being all areas a country is, at national level, active in. Others however view a priority area as an area that needs particular focussed attention. If an area is already covered well and action is taken in this area, it is not indicated as a priority. The prioritisation of an area is therefore not a statement of its relevance or importance, according to one respondent, 'it just means that no (or less) additional action or attention is needed for the moment, compared to the other areas that are seen as a "priority".'

¹⁶ Declaration of the 3rd European Youth Work Convention. Signposts for the future. Bonn/Online, 7-10 December 2020.
https://www.growingyouthwork.eu/downloads/publications/2/3rd%20EYWC_final%20Declaration.pdf [15 March 2025].



THE NATIONAL PROCESSES

within the EYWA implementation **Report 2025.**

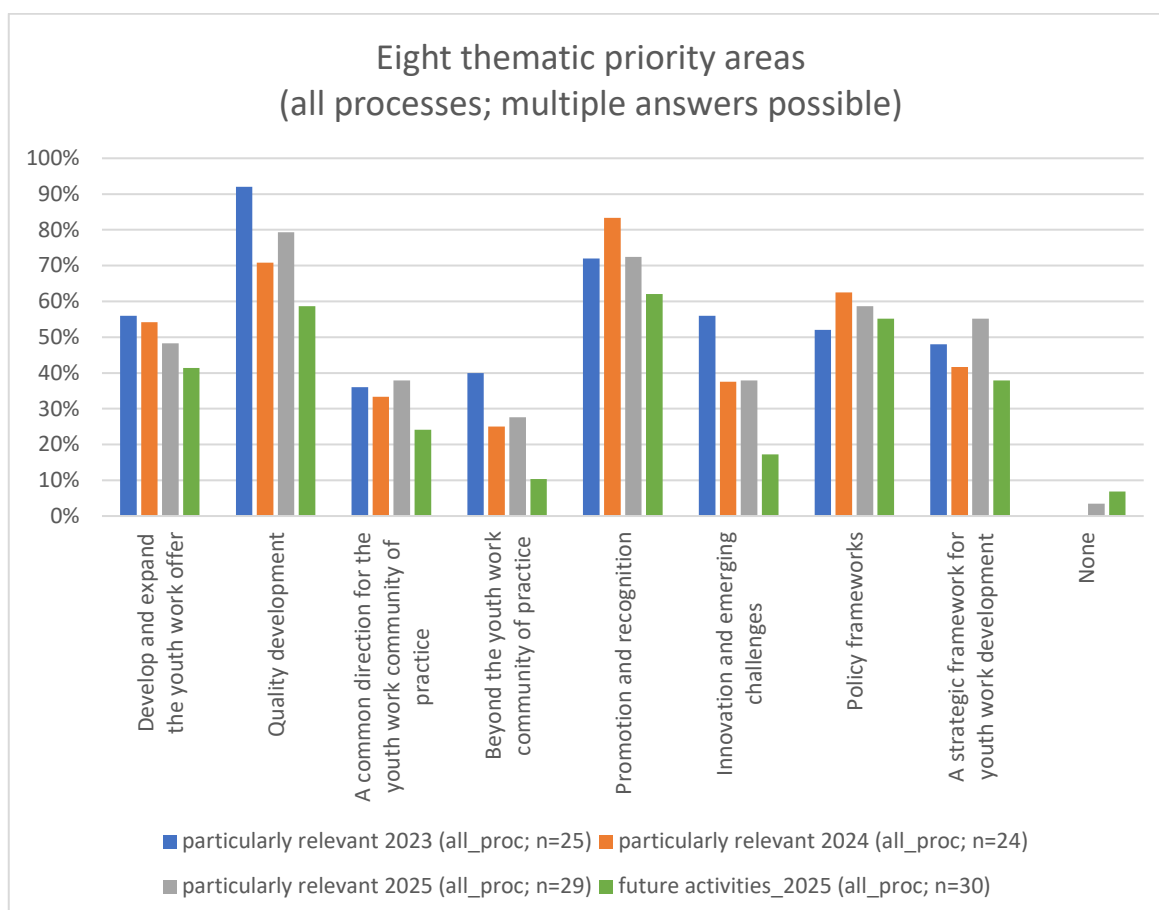


Figure 11: Answers to the questions 'Which of the eight thematic priority areas do you consider particularly relevant when it comes to your work?' (2023, 2024, 2025) and 'In which areas are you planning to be active this year?' (2025), all processes.

The general conclusions drawn in the previous Survey Reports are repeated in the present report. 'Quality development' and 'promotion and recognition' (particularly recognition) are considered to be the two main thematic priority areas relevant to most processes according to the respondents. Whereas 'beyond the youth work community of practice' (specifically cross-sectoral cooperation) continues to be perceived as having low relevance. As the sub-chapters on each priority area will show, quality development focusses mainly on the education and training of youth workers, whereas for recognition, many processes discuss the social, formal,



THE NATIONAL PROCESSES within the EYWA implementation **Report 2025.**

and political¹⁷ dimensions of recognition of youth work. The latter, political recognition, is closely related to the development of policy frameworks and includes the development of youth work laws and strategies. There is a high level of interest in bringing the EYWA more to the local level (see [chapter 4](#)). However, the continuous decline in the perceived relevance of the priority area ‘develop and expand the youth work offer’ (down by 48 % in 2025) raises many questions about what is actually needed or wanted. This may be due to the different interpretations by respondents concerning the meaning of the term ‘priority area’.

¹⁷ In European discourse, ‘recognition’ has four dimensions: self-recognition, social recognition, political recognition, and formal recognition (see the [Pathways 2.0 towards recognition of non-formal learning/education and of youth work in Europe](#)). The answers in the survey referred mostly to political recognition, sometimes to social and formal recognition. The respective dimension is clearly indicated in the text.



THE NATIONAL PROCESSES

within the EYWA implementation **Report 2025.**

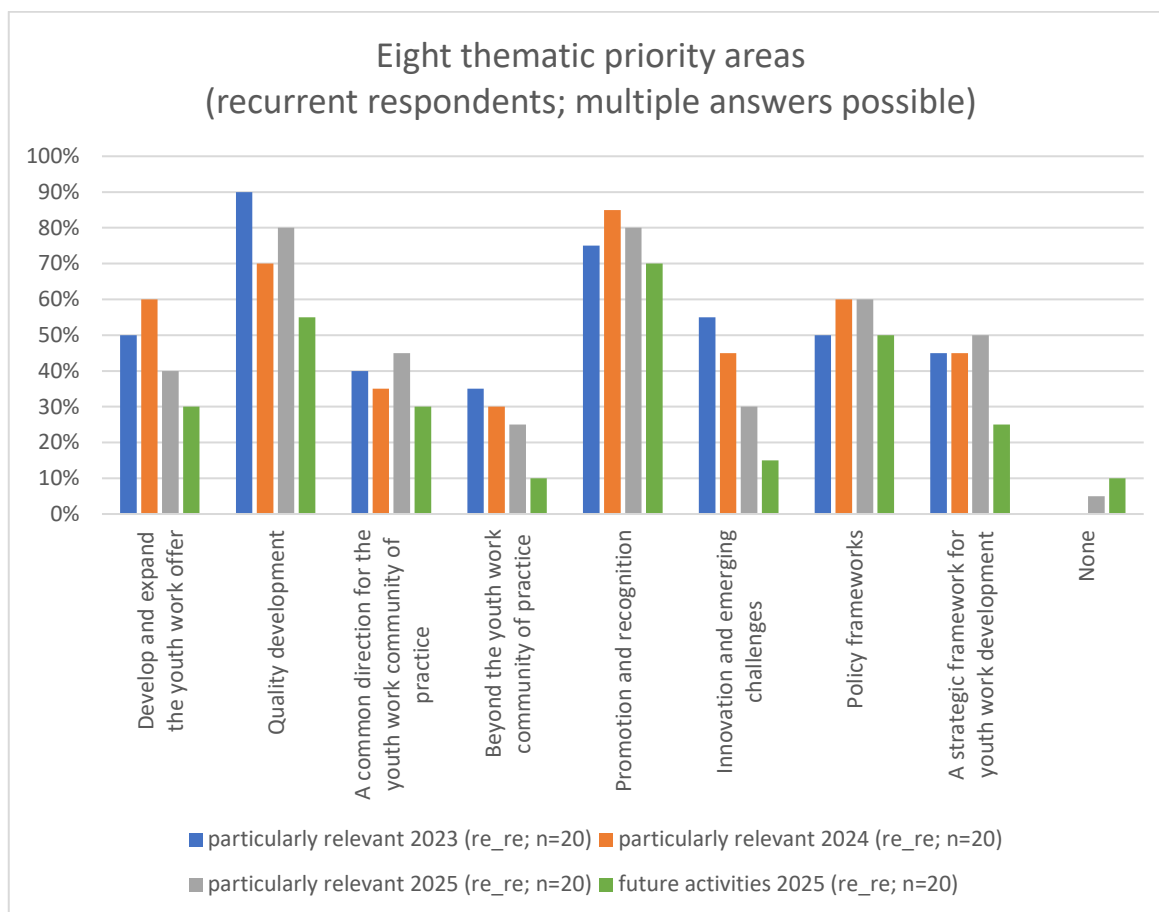


Figure 12: Answers to the questions 'Which of the eight thematic priority areas do you consider particularly relevant when it comes to your work?' (2023, 2024, 2025) and 'In which areas are you planning to be active this year?' (2025), recurrent respondents

Regarding the thematic priority areas of 'quality development' and 'promotion and recognition', there are no big differences between the recurrent respondents and all processes. However, the decline in the priority area 'develop and expand the youth work offer' (from 60 % to 40 %) is even higher, suggesting that implementation of the EYWA may be more related to general thematic areas, for example to quality and recognition, rather than concrete offers.

The previous survey reports highlighted the broadness of the eight priority areas as a challenge when it comes to relating specific activities to its structures. Although the majority of the national processes have found it relatively easy to relate their measures to the eight priority areas, there are also some notes of caution.



THE NATIONAL PROCESSES

within the EYWA implementation **Report 2025.**

A range of national processes (**Austria, Cyprus, Czechia, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, North Macedonia, Portugal, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, and Türkiye**) consider it easy to relate their activities to the structure of the eight priority areas. In **Latvia**, for example, the existing standards for youth work quality cover most of the eight priority areas. However, the broad scope of the EYWA is considered just as critically as it was in the previous survey reports.

From **Cyprus** came the comment that this broadness on one side means that many measures correlate to the EYWA, but at the same time it is can be difficult to categorise an action, for example, policy making and strategic development. **Czechia** and **Portugal** reflect the eight priority areas in the development of their respective national youth strategies. The Portuguese national youth strategy integrates all eight priorities, although it is considered to be a challenge to coordinate the EYWA between national and local level. To bring focus to the broadness of the EYWA, **the Netherlands** decided to reduce the eight priority areas to four central goals in the Dutch National Action Plan. This focus helps to make the goals, actions, and activities more concrete.

Ireland mentioned that despite its broadness, recruitment and retention could get more attention in the EYWA. Measures in this regard are difficult to align with the eight priority areas. Similarly, it was highlighted by **Italy** that although the eight priorities are a good synthesis of the needs of youth work, a supportive structure beyond the implementation of the European funding programmes is needed. Indeed, without a supportive structure at national, regional, and/or local levels, a process can easily reach only the beneficiaries of the European funding programmes, rather than the stakeholders beyond.

Germany, Greece, and Bosnia and Hercegovina point out that there are differences to the extent that it is possible to align measures with the EYWA. For the contact point and youth workers, the EYWA is considered to be related to daily work and as such, easy to relate measures to. For other actors in the field, like decision-makers and people in ministries, this is harder as they sometimes lack capacities as well as knowledge.

Two of the Belgian Communities (The Flemish Community of Belgium and the French-speaking Community) consider the broad orientation of the EYWA as a challenge to align measures to, because activities usually relate to more than one of the priority areas. Moreover, it often happens that progress is made in various priority areas in parallel, making it difficult to assign measures to a particular priority area (**The Flemish Community of Belgium**). Although it is used as an inspirational framework for reflection on youth work development, for example to detect



THE NATIONAL PROCESSES

within the EYWA implementation **Report 2025.**

blind spots, the EYWA with its eight-pillar framework is also considered challenging when being used as an operational framework for action. In the **French-speaking Community of Belgium**, the legitimacy of the eight priority areas as well of the lack of clear indicators is mentioned as a challenge. In both parts of Belgium, it is pointed out that the local operating model is not always in alignment with the EYWA, and there are moreover, local developments the regional and national levels are not aware of.

Croatia set up a process of aligning activities to the structure of eight priority areas, however, they considered this process as challenging. This was partly due to the perceived lack of interest and capacities of the responsible body for the implementation of the EYWA. On occasions other stakeholders, such as the National Agency and the Croatian Youth Network, developed and implemented activities themselves rather than supporting the responsible body in doing so. In **Armenia**, the challenge of aligning youth work measures with the EYWA is also considered to be challenging due to the geopolitical and socio-political context as well as limited resources.

Each sub-section below presents a priority area and the measures that have been taken or are being planned in that area. They are listed in order according to their relevance in national processes (see Figure 11 above) rather than how they are listed in the EYWA.

2.1. QUALITY DEVELOPMENT

The priority area 'quality development' refers to a series of requirements to improve the quality of youth work. It is about having better outreach and information on existing structures and mechanisms as well as having a holistic approach to improve youth work through, for example, quality assurance systems.



THE NATIONAL PROCESSES within the EYWA implementation **Report 2025.**

Quality development

- Particularly relevant priority area in this country
- Not a particularly relevant priority area in this country
- No information available

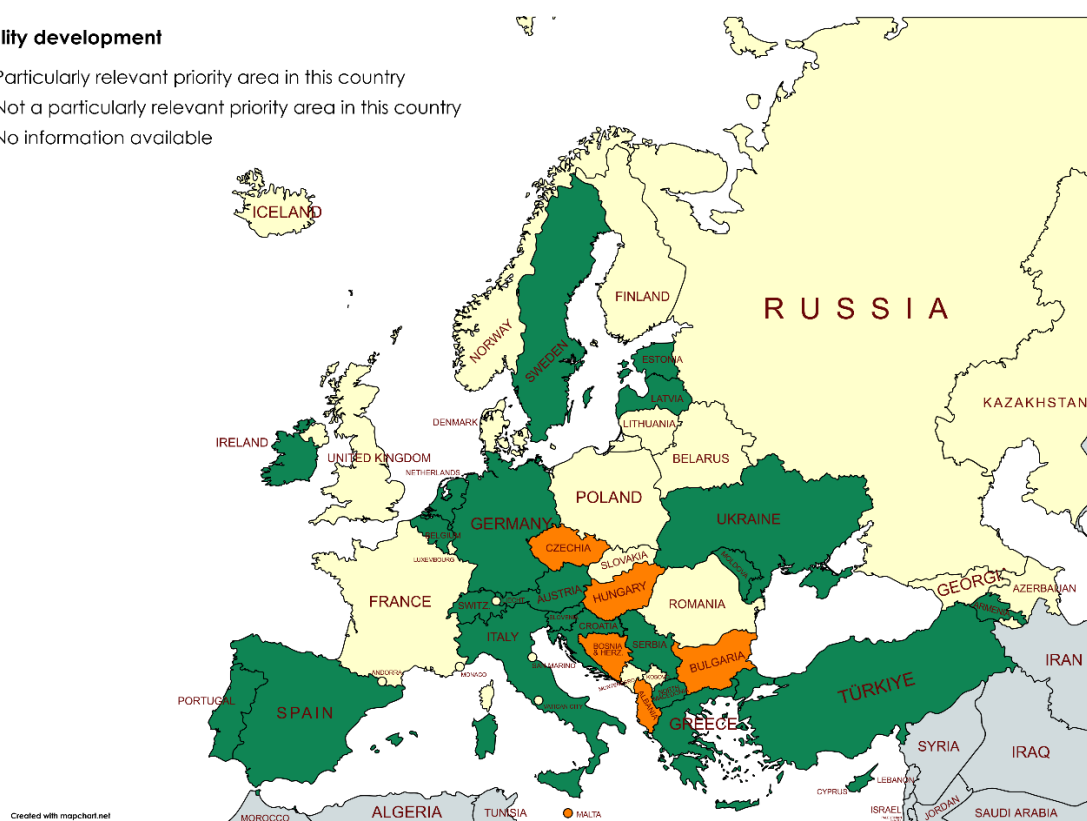


Figure 13: Countries considering 'quality development' as a particularly relevant thematic priority area in 2025 when it comes to youth work¹⁸

The importance of this priority area is mirrored in the long list of activities that can be categorised within this area. **The Flemish Community of Belgium** takes a strategic approach to quality development by organising a stakeholder learning network on youth work impact. This leads to a conference called 'making impact visible' in May of 2025. In **Latvia**, in 2024 a national youth workers association was established to enhance the quality of youth work.

Several countries have focused on the development of occupational and qualification standards for youth workers. **Latvia** established occupational standards for youth workers in June 2024. In **Cyprus**, an occupational standard for youth workers is (in 2025) under development with the collaboration of the National Youth Council, the Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth, and the Human Resources Development Authority. Similarly, the **Serbian**

¹⁸ For Belgium, all three Communities marked 'quality development' as a particularly relevant thematic priority area in 2025.



THE NATIONAL PROCESSES within the EYWA implementation **Report 2025.**

Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veterans, and Social Affairs has developed an occupational standard for youth workers. The document has been finalised, and official adoption is expected in 2025.

Slovenia is, at time of writing, developing a competency model for youth workers. **Portugal** is reviewing and updating the youth worker professional profile to level V - according to the European Qualifications Framework. This is to give young people qualifying for becoming a youth worker the opportunity to increase their level of qualification by basic and essential competences being acknowledged, and to recognise, validate, and certificate the competences of youth workers. In **Serbia**, NAPOR and the Ministry of Tourism and Youth are developing Qualification Standards for Youth Workers (levels V and VII according to the European Qualifications Framework). These qualification standards are defined through a wide consultative process, and the documents are currently in the final stage of preparation.

Switzerland is working on quality standards for youth mobility projects, similar to the accreditation process in the EU Erasmus+ Youth programme. In 2025, **Serbia** is planning to work on a supervision system for youth workers, and **Latvia** plans to work on a quality framework for youth workers. **Armenia** plans to develop a Youth Work Skills and Competencies Framework. This project aims at developing a national framework for the recognition of youth work skills and competencies. This initiative would involve creating a formal system to acknowledge the non-formal learning experiences of youth workers, helping them gain recognition for their contributions to youth development.

Other countries are focusing on youth worker education and training programmes. **Croatia** re-designed and co-created the Youth Studies, a non-formal programme in the field of youth policy and youth work. The Youth Studies are to be implemented by the Croatian Youth Network and the National Agency for Mobility and EU Programmes. Its implementation is planned for 2025. **North Macedonia** continued its pilot university master's programme on youth work and has now accredited it and has provided accreditation for the training of youth workers. Similarly, **Ukraine** developed a National Educational Programme 'youth worker'.

Slovenia, Spain and Sweden focussed on training activities, preparing training programmes and methodologies for youth organisation leaders and youth centre directors. In **Slovenia**, they also provided workshops for mentors of student communities, thus connecting formal and non-



THE NATIONAL PROCESSES

within the EYWA implementation **Report 2025.**

formal education. **Spain** organised training activities such as ‘facilitation on and off’¹⁹, conducted international research, and ran youth seminars²⁰. In **Sweden** the training of Charter Ambassadors continued, this included 20 workshops in municipalities during 2023 and 2024.

The **Republic of Moldova** developed a curriculum for youth worker professionalisation and a national programme for skills and competence development of youth workers in youth centres. For 2025, the **Republic of Moldova** plans a differentiated approach to the professionalisation of the community of practice, including training for schoolteachers to promote youth work. **Portugal** plans the implementation of its ‘Youth Development Academy’ in the first half of 2025. The Academy aims to promote youth work development in the country and is organised in cooperation between the National Agency for Qualification and Vocational Education, the Erasmus+ Youth/Sport and European Solidarity Corps National Agency, the National Youth Council, and the National Federation of Youth Associations.

To increase applications to youth work courses, **Ireland** will start a pilot project called ‘Inspiring Future Youth Workers’. **Italy** plans to structure and implement a process and series of concrete activities to gather youth workers to share approaches, methodologies, and tools that support quality and recognition at any level in youth work. In the **German-speaking Community of Belgium**, there are plans to set up a training for youth workers.

When it comes to research, monitoring, and quality assurance in youth work, **the Flemish Community of Belgium** is intensifying its intra-sectoral dialogue around formal and non-formal youth worker education, strongly connecting it with the SNAC ‘Education and Training’. **Malta** implements a self-assessment tool to evaluate the quality of youth organisations. **Slovenia** works on several projects in this regard, including an application for the development of a monitoring and recording system for youth work, as well as the implementation of surveys on youth participation in youth work and how non-formal teaching methods can be used in formal education. This work is planned to continue in 2025. **Latvia** plans the introduction of a Youth Test as an impact assessment tool in 2025, and **North Macedonia** plans to pilot a quality

¹⁹ <https://www.salto-youth.net/tools/european-training-calendar/training/facilitation-on-off.11934/> [31 March 2025].

²⁰ <https://juventudextremadura.juntaex.es/web/detalle-convocatoria-cursos--jornadas-y-congresos?codigo=16274> [31 March 2025].



THE NATIONAL PROCESSES within the EYWA implementation **Report 2025.**

evaluation of youth centres methodology. **Ireland** is planning a workforce survey which will be conducted by the Youth Ministry.

2.2. PROMOTION AND RECOGNITION

The priority area ‘promotion and recognition’ is about making youth work more visible and better understood as an independent field of work. The aim is not only to create awareness of youth work, but also to develop a common narrative through common language and terminology. This connects strongly with the priority area ‘a common direction for the youth work community of practice’. Even though there are many activities planned for 2025, there are no initiatives regarding the recognition of youth work, and just a few on the promotion of youth work and the EYWA.



THE NATIONAL PROCESSES

within the EYWA implementation **Report 2025.**



Figure 14: Countries considering ‘promotion and recognition’ as a particularly relevant thematic priority area in 2025 when it comes to youth work²¹

In **Austria**, the Erasmus+ National Agency, the Youth Ministry, and the state youth departments organised an event on regional youth strategies. Similarly, the **Republic of Moldova** organised its annual National Youth Workers Forum. In **the Flemish Community of Belgium**, the National Scan on the development of youth work (2022) was updated with data from 2024 and 2025. Developments in **Italy** are closely related to the SNAC ‘Growing Youth Work’. Three meetings, in different areas of Italy, were held to promote the SNAC as a concrete tool to develop quality and recognition in youth work. The **French-speaking Community of Belgium** uses podcasts and videos to increase youth work and EYWA visibility. A similar approach is taken in **Portugal**, where the knowledge area of the IPDJ portal²² has been further developed to promote integrated services, materials, and activities with and for young people. **Slovenia** designed a

²¹ For Belgium, the French-speaking Community marked ‘promotion and recognition’ as a particularly relevant thematic priority area in 2025, whereas the Flemish Community of Belgium and the German-speaking Community did not.

²² <https://ipdj.gov.pt/> [31 March 2025].



THE NATIONAL PROCESSES

within the EYWA implementation **Report 2025.**

new graphic identity for joint actions promoting youth work. For 2025, both **Italy** and **Slovenia** plan events and campaigns to inform the public about the EYWA and to promote youth work.

Many countries plan advocacy and lobbying initiatives to increase political, formal, and social dimensions of recognition, for example through positioning papers (**Greece**), through the initiative 'Youth Centre in every Municipality' (**North Macedonia**), and through the Youth Guarantee to increase recognition of youth work in employment and social welfare sectors (**Serbia**). Considering the value of youth work for employment, the National Youth Council of **Ireland** is currently conducting research on the economic value of youth work and its social return on investment. **Albania** plans a project to raise awareness and advocate for the recognition and institutionalisation of youth workers.

The 4th European Youth Work Convention is being considered as an important platform to lobby for self, social, formal, and political recognition of youth work.

2.3. POLICY FRAMEWORKS

In the priority area 'policy frameworks', it is argued that youth work should be an explicit and integrated part of youth policy at all levels. There is also a need for specific youth work strategies to support participatory youth policymaking and implementation. There is also a need for standards for research-based and rights-based approaches in policymaking and implementation. Most measures in this priority area focus on the development, implementation, and monitoring of national youth strategies.

Regarding policy implementation, the **Croatian** Youth Network, an umbrella organisation recognised as a national youth council, established in December 2023 an Expert Working Group. The aim of this group is to monitor the implementation of strategic documents in the field of youth in Croatia, including the implementation of the EYWA.

Armenia plans a project aimed at aligning Armenia's youth work practices with European youth work standards. The initiative is to include workshops, collaboration with European partners, and a review of existing youth policies. This is to ensure Armenia's youth work aligns with recognised best practices across Europe. Similarly, **Moldova** is planning to develop, approve, and integrate the provisions of the EYWA into its national policy documents.



THE NATIONAL PROCESSES within the EYWA implementation **Report 2025.**

Several countries have worked on general development and the adoption of youth strategies, these include **Albania, Czechia, Serbia, Ukraine**, the **German-speaking Community of Belgium, the Flemish Community of Belgium**, the **Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina**, and the **Republika Srpska in Bosnia and Herzegovina**. Other countries point out that they advocate for the inclusion of youth work in (draft) national strategies (**Cyprus, North Macedonia**, and **Moldova**). The **Netherlands** has established a National Strategic Agenda for Child and Youth Work for the period 2025-2030, which is supported by a national strategic working group.

Similarly, **Ireland** developed a National Strategy for Youth Work and Related Services 2024-2028. **Albania** introduced both the Development of Local Youth Action Plans and the Strengthening of Municipal Youth Councils. The Action Plans for Youth are designed to ensure effective implementation of national youth policies in municipalities. Additionally, Youth Councils have been established in every municipality to enhance youth participation in decision-making processes, and to promote structured dialogue between young people and local authorities.



THE NATIONAL PROCESSES

within the EYWA implementation **Report 2025.**



Figure 15: Countries considering 'policy frameworks' as a particularly relevant thematic priority area in 2025 when it comes to youth work²³

Cyprus is planning to work on an Action Plan based on the National Youth Strategy by incorporating elements of youth work. In **Czechia**, the draft National Youth Strategy is planned to be approved by the government in 2025, and as a follow-up, a first Action Plan is to be developed fulfilling the objectives of the Strategy. In **Ukraine**, the Law 'On the Main Principles of Youth Policy' is to be changed, and a new programme 'Youth of Ukraine (2025-2030)' is being set up. In **Armenia**, there are plans to create a National Framework for Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship. This national framework will focus on integrating youth employment and entrepreneurship into the broader economic policy framework. It would involve collaboration with government bodies and youth organisations to ensure young people's employment rights, entrepreneurship opportunities, and skills development are formally recognised and supported within the national policy framework.

²³ For Belgium, none of the three Communities marked 'policy frameworks' as a particularly relevant thematic priority area in 2025.



THE NATIONAL PROCESSES

within the EYWA implementation **Report 2025.**

Serbia took a strategic approach to youth work development by incorporating the principles of the EYWA into relevant legislative documents under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Tourism and Youth. This included the adoption of the Youth Strategy 2023-2030²⁴ in January 2023 and the creation of the new Law on Youth as well as the adoption of the Action Plan of the Youth Strategy 2023-2025 in June 2023²⁵. With the development of a national youth work framework in September 2024, **Latvia** created a quality tool for municipalities. This tool includes most of EYWA priority areas such as ‘develop and expand the youth work offer’, ‘quality development’, ‘a common direction for the youth work community of practice’, ‘beyond the community of practice’, ‘promotion and recognition’, and ‘a framework for youth policy development’.

2.4. A STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR YOUTH WORK DEVELOPMENT

Strongly related to the previous areas is the priority area ‘a strategic framework for youth work development’. This area encourages the community of practice to reflect on how it can contribute towards the development of youth work itself. This could include setting up national working groups to coordinate joint undertakings or providing (better) conditions for youth work development at local level.

An example of strategic youth work policy planning is **Austria**, where strategic alliances are built between the local, regional, and national levels as well as between governmental authorities and non-governmental organisations. To strengthen connections between the local, regional, national, and European levels, the **French-speaking Community of Belgium** informs youth actors about possibilities at the other levels, thus building bridges between the local to European levels. It plans to actively use the 4th European Youth Work Convention to strengthen these actions. **Ireland** continues with its manifold projects; in this priority area, it is a mapping report called ‘Bonn Appetit’²⁶. It introduces the ingredients of Irish youth work and the development of a youth work alumni network to preserve institutional knowledge. **Czechia** used its existing Youth Panel, an advisory body to the Youth Ministry, to have a consultation on identifying gaps and challenges in providing youth work both in 2023 and 2024.

²⁴

<https://mto.gov.rs/extfile/sr/1828/EN%20Youth%20Strategy%20in%20the%20Republic%20of%20Serbia%20for%20the%20period%20from%202023%20to%202030.pdf> [31 March 2025].

²⁵ <https://mto.gov.rs/extfile/sr/2686/engap.pdf> [31 March 2025].

²⁶ <https://www.youth.ie/documents/bonn-appetit-bonn-process/> [15 March 2025].



THE NATIONAL PROCESSES

within the EYWA implementation **Report 2025.**

In January 2025, the **Flemish Community of Belgium** initiated a new consultation structure in the youth field, called ‘Working Group Youth Work in Europe’. This strategic network of youth work stakeholders aims at meeting up to four times per year. The main aims of this network are information sharing, joint vision and knowledge development, and the transfer of knowledge between Flanders and the wider European youth field.

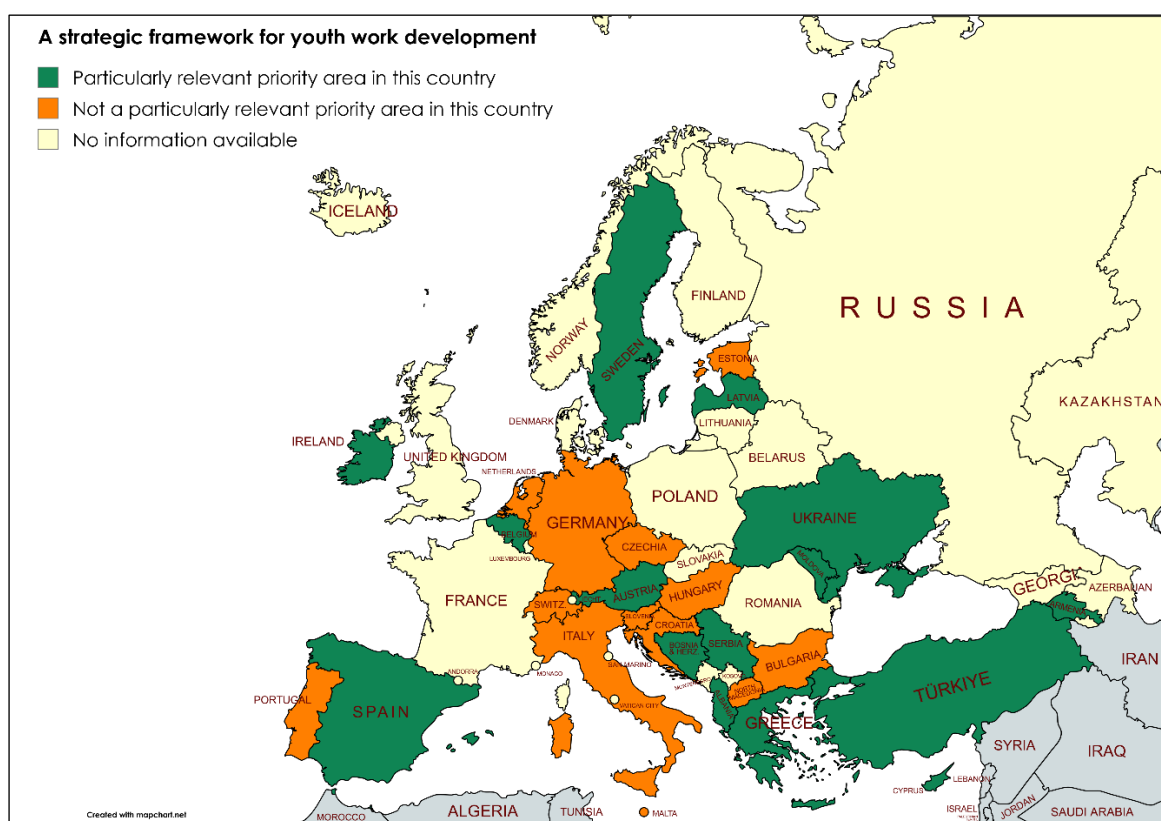


Figure 16: Countries considering ‘a strategic framework for youth work development’ as a particularly relevant thematic priority area in 2025 when it comes to youth work²⁷

²⁷ For Belgium, the Flemish Community and the German-speaking Community marked ‘a strategic framework for youth work development’ as a particularly relevant thematic priority area in 2025, whereas the French-speaking Community did not.

2.5. DEVELOP AND EXPAND THE YOUTH WORK OFFER

The core objective of youth work is to create opportunities for young people. Thus, a further priority area is to ‘develop and expand the youth work offer’. This area focuses on measures to establish quality youth work offers mainly at local level and for all young people in their diversity. This includes the use of quality standards, the mobilisation of European funding programmes for the development of youth work, and accessible and sustainable funding.



Figure 17: Countries considering 'develop and expand the youth work offer' as a particularly relevant thematic priority area in 2025 when it comes to youth work²⁸

²⁸ For Belgium, the German-speaking Community marked ‘develop and expand the youth work offer’ as a particularly relevant thematic priority area in 2025, whereas The Flemish Community of Belgium and the French-speaking Community did not.



THE NATIONAL PROCESSES

within the EYWA implementation **Report 2025.**

In this priority area, the aim of implementing youth policy initiatives is to develop and strengthen youth work. The EU4Youth Alumni Network from **Armenia** is active in implementing educational initiatives across local communities in rural marginalised areas.

North Macedonia continues to develop youth work by opening youth centres in municipalities (there are currently nine). The newly established National Contact Point in **Germany** encouraged the creation of Local Partnerships in eight cities (Hamburg, Dortmund, Nuremberg, Bremen, Oldenburg, Cottbus, Rhein-Selz, and Erding). It is supporting these cities and rural counties to develop one year action plans to implement the EYWA at local level. In 2025, Germany plans to support these Local Partnerships to further develop and implement their action plans.

Croatia uses TCA activities of the Erasmus+ National Agency to strengthen capacities of different (newcomer) non-governmental organisations and municipalities for the successful implementation of KA1 and KA2 Erasmus+ projects in the field of youth. These activities will include the promotion of the EYWA as well as results from the SNAC 'Europe Goes Local'.

For 2025, the **Netherlands** is planning to offer closer support to professional youth work organisations, to make use of European funding programmes for the development of their youth work (and policies). In **North Macedonia**, a training for people working with young people will be offered. At a more European level, **Germany** will be organising the 'MatchHub', a European matching event to support the creation of long-term partnerships between different organisations at the local level. This is in line with both the EYWA and the needs of these organisations. The partnerships will be supported by the different National Contact Points of the respective countries.

2.6. A COMMON DIRECTION FOR THE YOUTH WORK COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

For the community of practice to move in a common direction, the EYWA proposes, in the priority area 'a common direction for the youth work community of practice', to create concrete opportunities for the community of practice to meet and exchange information. This concerns all levels and varies from stronger cooperation between individual groups in the community of practice, to information provision, and monitoring and evaluation mechanisms. In this priority area, various measures are being taken in different countries to promote collaboration, communication, and alignment within the youth work sector.



THE NATIONAL PROCESSES

within the EYWA implementation **Report 2025.**

The National Working Groups play an important role in defining a common direction for the youth work community of practice. In some countries, they are specifically dedicated to the EYWA and meet on a regular basis. One example is from **Austria** where the group discusses progress reports on implementation of the EYWA and aim for an increase of engagement with regional representatives. Such regular meetings foster collaboration among stakeholders.

In **Estonia**, stakeholders and interest groups come together to discuss and collaboratively find solutions and consider various aspects and objectives of youth work and youth policy. These discussions have taken the form of roundtables, working group meetings, and consultations. They provide feedback to decision-makers and give organisations the space and opportunity to participate in national decision-making. In 2025, Estonia plans a National Working Group meeting on how to support local level youth work to voice their key youth work topics to local decision makers. They are also piloting a youth capital (a youth friendly local municipality) programme.

In **Italy**, a National Working Group was established during 2021 and 2022, to promote and develop youth work topics connected to the EYWA. **Germany** chose a path of continuation, connecting stakeholders in an Advisory Board of the 'Transfer Office for the Implementation of the EYWA in Germany'. This Transfer Office had facilitated the German implementation process from 2021 to 2023. The Transfer Office laid important groundwork and identified topics of particular relevance in the German context. The topics it initiated, along with other EYWA goals, were then the focus of key professional events at the nationwide Congress on Child and Youth Work held in October 2024. After the Transfer Office was closed in December 2023, a new National Contact Point²⁹ was set up mid-2024, focusing on the implementation of the EYWA at local level. Finally, **Moldova** is planning to establish a National Working Group on the implementation of the EYWA in 2025. The National Youth Agency of **Moldova** also plans to establish a pool of experts in youth work that can advise its work.

²⁹ <https://eywakontaktstelle.de/en/home-en/> [31 March 2025].



THE NATIONAL PROCESSES

within the EYWA implementation **Report 2025.**

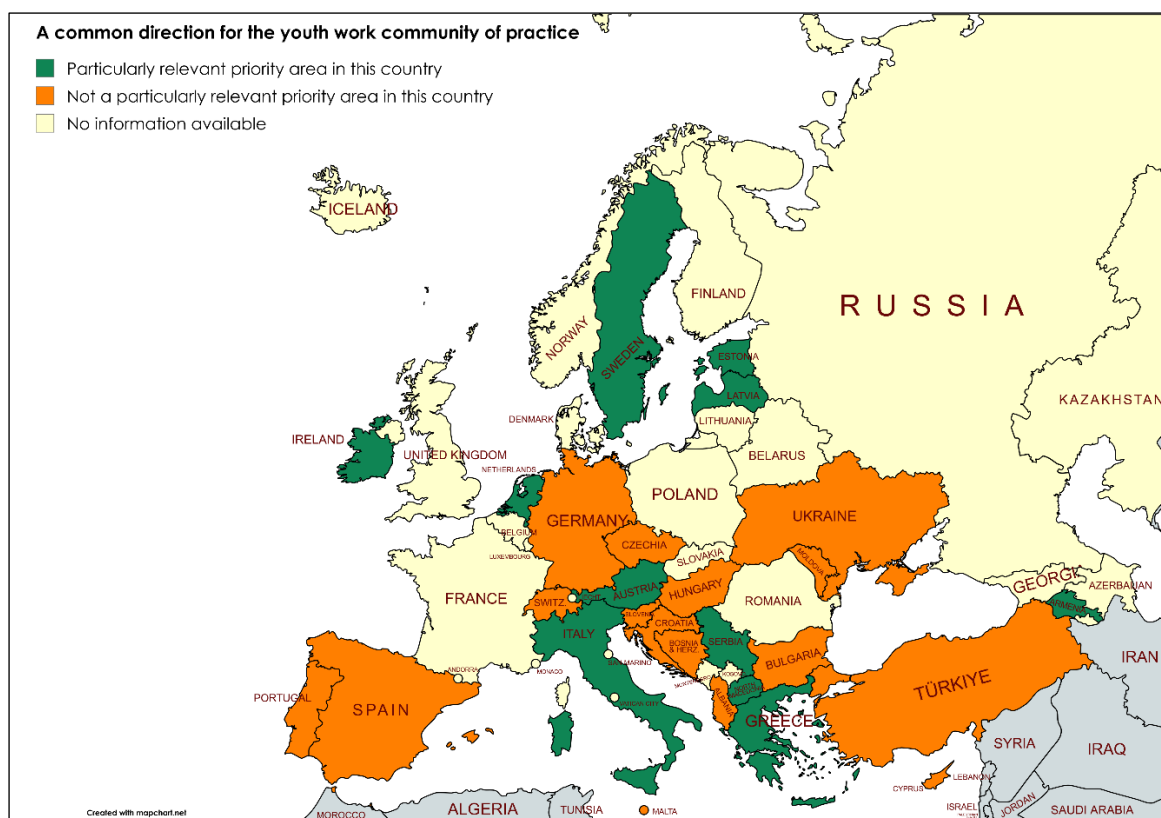


Figure 18: Countries considering ‘a common direction for the youth work community of practice’ as a particularly relevant thematic priority area in 2025 when it comes to youth work³⁰

In other countries, expert groups were established, for example in **Slovenia** once the expert group was set up, they held work meetings for the preparation of the 2025 Action Plan. Explicit outcomes of the work of the National Working Groups that foster a common direction for the youth work community of practice can be seen in **Bulgaria**. Here the ‘National Working Group on Youth Work to the Minister of Youth and Sports of the Republic of Bulgaria’, created a definition of youth work. It is planned to have this definition before the National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria to be voted on in 2025, thus becoming an amendment to the existing Youth Law.

³⁰ For Belgium, the Flemish Community of Belgium marked ‘a common direction for the youth work community of practice’ as a particularly relevant thematic priority area in 2025, whereas the French-speaking and German-speaking Communities did not.



THE NATIONAL PROCESSES

within the EYWA implementation **Report 2025.**

Several national processes conducted or funded research to get more insights into the state of youth work in their respective country. The Youth Board of **Cyprus** contracted a research institution to run a piece of research in 2025 on the state of play of youth work in Cyprus. The research parameters are to refer to different target groups such as youth workers, employers, and policy makers.

The **Netherlands** developed a National Child and Youth Work Magazine which includes research, tools, tips, videos, and links for youth workers that can support them in their activities. This magazine is also available online. The eventual aim of the editors is to use the website as an online hub to gather all tools, materials, research, knowledge, and training courses available in the Netherlands in one place.

The **Netherlands** also organises an annual national conference for the youth work field. Every even year, it is organised as a conference for people working at the national administrative and governance level and every odd year, it is organised as a national day for all child and youth work practitioners. The 2025 conference for child and youth work practitioners will have workshops on 'international youth work' and the 'futures of youth work and innovation'.

Similarly, the National Youth Council of **Ireland** organises an annual conference 'Vision for Youth Work'. It brings youth workers, managers, volunteers, and other stakeholders together to focus on two critical aspects of the sector's Vision for Youth Work³¹: 'People: Capacity, Support, and Diversity' (Aspect 5) and 'Recognition and Resources' (Aspect 7). As the sector is facing challenges in recruitment and retention, the 2024 conference launched the year of #YouthWorkersChangeLives³². This campaign spotlighted the vital contributions of youth workers and explored ways to elevate the recognition and support of youth work across Ireland.

Other countries organising activities to bring together stakeholders from the youth sector are **Bosnia and Herzegovina**, which is organising a national youth work convention in cooperation between the Institute for Youth Development Kult and the Ministry of Civil Affairs. **Slovenia** has a series of workshops 'Active for the Future', **Spain** has international youth meetings in

³¹ <https://www.youth.ie/documents/vision-for-youth-work/> [31 March 2025].

³² <https://www.youth.ie/event/nyci-national-conference-2024-youth-workers-change-lives/> [31 March 2025].



THE NATIONAL PROCESSES

within the EYWA implementation **Report 2025.**

Cabueñes (Asturias)³³, and **Ukraine** had its Youth Work National Forum in November and December 2024. **Germany** plans a platform event series called 'EYWA Connect', which is a space for all actors interested in the EYWA, but it should also serve as a space for debates and discussions as well as the sharing of best practices. It aims at creating a better understanding of the EYWA and how it can be better integrated into local, regional, and national youth work strategies.

In **Croatia**, a National Association of Youth Workers was established at a Founding Assembly in January 2025. At **European** level, several respondents stressed the importance of the Alliance of Youth Workers Associations. In the context of the EYWA, ten National Associations of Youth Workers and youth work providers from ten different countries founded the Alliance in March 2024. The main aim is to advocate for youth work recognition and development at both European and national levels.

The 4th European Youth Work Convention plays an important role in bringing the community of practice together. This is evident from the many respondents that mentioned the preparation for the 4th European Youth Work Convention as their main 2025 activity in this priority area. In many national processes, preparation meetings and follow-up events are planned (**Austria, the Flemish and the French-speaking Communities of Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ireland, Italy, Germany**).

2.7. INNOVATION AND EMERGING CHALLENGES

The lives of young people are continuously being shaped by several crises which also have an impact on youth work. The challenges that come with these crises are the focus of the priority area 'innovation and emerging challenges'. Mental health, climate change, digitalised life-worlds, and shrinking civil spaces are just some of these challenges. Through innovations (e. g. smart youth work, green youth work, etc.) and the development of resilient youth work structures, attempts are being made to meet these challenges.

³³ <https://www.gijon.es/es/eventos/Encuentros-Internacionales-de-Juventud-de-Cabue%C3%B1es> [31 March 2025].



THE NATIONAL PROCESSES

within the EYWA implementation **Report 2025.**

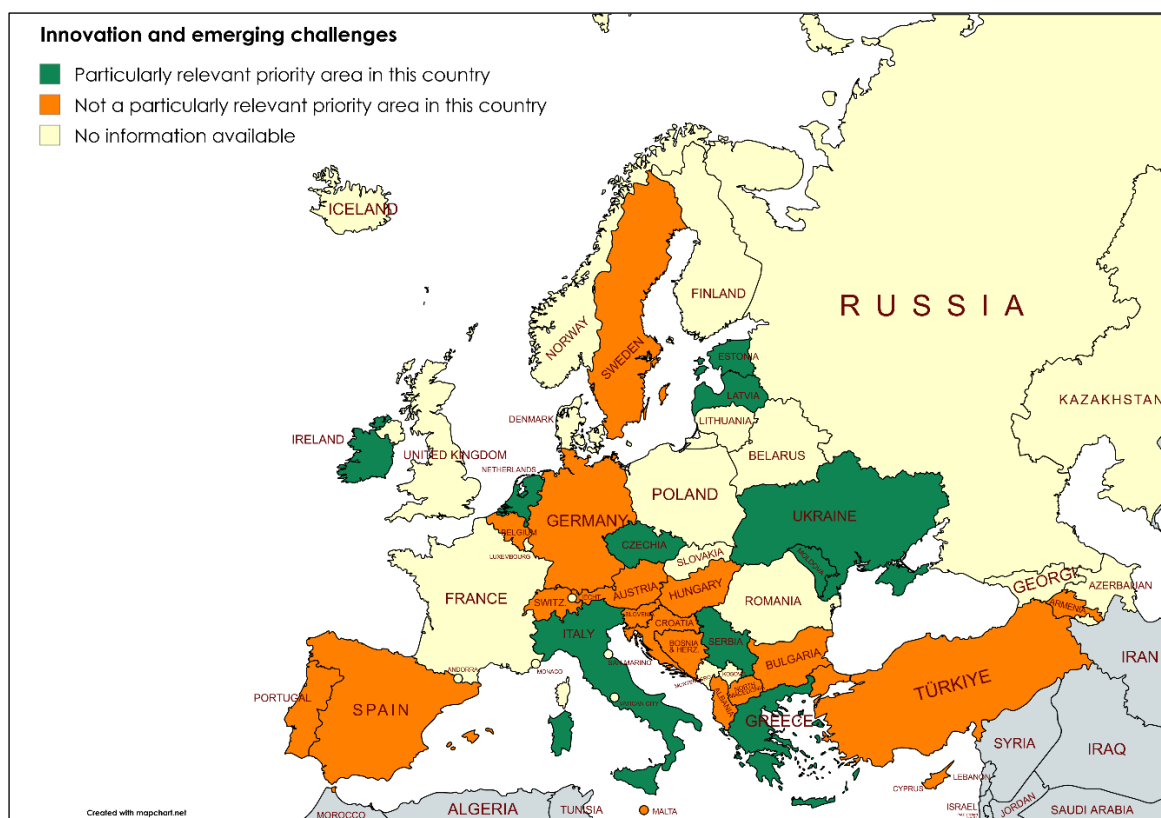


Figure 19: Countries considering 'innovation and emerging challenges' as a particularly relevant thematic priority area in 2025 when it comes to youth work³⁴

In **Czechia**, five stakeholder round tables were organised in 2025 with the goal of identifying the gaps and challenges in youth work and their youth work provision. Through continuing participation in the SNAC 'European Academy on Youth Work', **Italy** lays a focus on innovation. At national level, it has developed a training module focused on innovation to support quality in Erasmus+ Youth Key Action 2 projects. The module will be further developed in 2025. **Latvia** is planning to take measures to enhance digital youth work in municipalities.

³⁴ For Belgium, the French-speaking Community marked 'innovation and emerging challenges' as a particularly relevant thematic priority area in 2025, whereas the Flemish Community of Belgium and the German-speaking Community did not.



THE NATIONAL PROCESSES within the EYWA implementation **Report 2025.**

2.8. BEYOND THE YOUTH WORK COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

Although youth work will continue to develop as an independent field of work, it does not exist in isolation but is part of a very diverse lifeworld of young people. It is therefore vital that youth work cooperates with other sectors that are important for young people. Within the framework of the priority area 'beyond the youth work community of practice', cross-sectoral and horizontal cooperation is being strengthened at all levels. However, only a few national processes reported any action in this priority area.



Figure 20: Countries considering 'beyond the youth work community of practice' as a particularly relevant thematic priority area in 2025 when it comes to youth work³⁵

³⁵ For Belgium, none of the Communities marked 'beyond the youth work community of practice' as a particularly relevant thematic priority area in 2025.



THE NATIONAL PROCESSES

within the EYWA implementation **Report 2025.**

Armenia launched the 3rd 'Euroclub Gyumri' in March 2024, after previous events in Oshakan and Vayk. The Euroclub is a platform connecting the Eastern EU-neighbour countries³⁶ with European culture, offering educational programmes and intercultural exchanges.

In the framework of the SNAC 'Growing Youth Work', the **Netherlands** will organise the European Youth Work Talks Conference in October 2025. The conferences focus is on cross-sectoral collaborations within the youth work field and other sectors working with young people. The aim is to strengthen recognition and strategic alliances between the youth work sector and other sectors.

2.9. YOUTH WORK CHALLENGES

The main aim of the EYWA is the further development and strengthening of youth work in Europe, an aim that is accompanied by many challenges. In the Survey Report 2023, these challenges were identified as a lack of political interest, a lack of recognition, a lack of resources, and a lack of cooperation. Combined they contribute to a complex process of EYWA implementation. The findings of the 2025 survey regarding general youth work challenges can be grouped around three of these four topics.

A lack of recognition

One of the main identified challenges is the lack of recognition of youth work as a profession. In many countries, the youth work profession is not formally recognised which leads to a number of difficulties. These include creating clear career paths, providing standardised trainings, and the implementation of accreditation systems (**Albania, Greece**). In the **Flemish Community of Belgium** there are problems in attracting, developing, and maintaining the retention of both volunteer and paid youth workers.

Several countries point out that a lack of recognition and employment opportunities as well as capacity constraints result in burnout, with many youth workers changing their field of work (**Moldova, Netherlands, Germany, Ukraine**). As a priority, there is a need for a coherent and systemic initiative towards the professionalisation of the youth work profession in **Croatia**. This

³⁶ <https://euneighbourseast.eu/> [31 March 2025].



THE NATIONAL PROCESSES

within the EYWA implementation **Report 2025.**

needs to include relevant and appropriate, evidence-based standards for youth workers, youth centres, and youth programmes.

The establishment of a structured system of educational training of youth workers at the levels of vocational training as well as bachelor's and master's degrees, may reinforce youth workers competencies and skills and enhance the recognition of the youth work profession. Furthermore, by recognising the competencies of youth workers, who are not certified but have a lot of experience, could contribute to the recognition of the profession (**Portugal**).

A lack of political interest

Closely related to the lack of recognition is the lack of political will and the commitment of political decision-makers to recognise the unique value and potential of youth work (**Netherlands, Spain**). There have also been instances of belittling the impact of youth work (**Switzerland**). Failing institutional support (**Bosnia and Herzegovina**) and shifting political priorities, especially in these times of crisis, challenges the practice of youth work even more (**Germany, Italy**).

A lack of resources

A lack of recognition and political will cumulates, in the observation of many respondents, in austerity measures hitting youth work hard. In **the Netherlands** for example, planned budget cuts at local level make it even more challenging to secure funds for local level long-term youth work programmes. In general, a key challenge is the need for securing long-term funding rather than relying on short-term activities (**Serbia**). While short-term projects can bring immediate results, their impact is often limited, and they do not provide the continuous support that young people need.

Sustainable, long-term funding is essential to ensure consistency, quality, and the lasting impact of youth work. Without it, youth workers and organisations struggle to build stable programmes, don't invest in capacity development, and fail to address the evolving needs of young people effectively. Strengthening policy commitments and financial mechanisms at both national and European levels is crucial to overcoming this challenge. Youth work organisations have to look to European funding, which is both recognised as an opportunity as well as a danger to the development of sustainable youth work structures in a country (**Czechia, Portugal**).



THE NATIONAL PROCESSES

within the EYWA implementation **Report 2025.**

2.10. CONCLUSIONS ON THE EIGHT PRIORITY AREAS

Five years after the establishment of the European Youth Work Agenda, its implementation continues to strengthen youth work all over Europe. The results of the 2025 survey show that new measures are being initiated and planned. There is also a certain level of continuity in the survey results. The challenges do not contain many new findings and are largely the same as in 2023 and 2024. Respondents continue to point to the lack of recognition as well as the lack of political will as some of the main obstacles to the development of youth work. In the SNAC 'Growing Youth Work' Coffee Talks, which are organised every two months, it has been widely shared that the increased financial insecurity for the youth work sector is linked to austerity measures and an increased political priority for military defence.

The different levels of priority that have been attached to the eight priority areas have stabilised. 'Quality development' and 'promotion and recognition' remain areas perceived as high priorities. Many of the reported activities are being carried out in these priority areas. In many processes, there seems to be a continuing decrease in the priority attached to the area of 'develop and expand the youth work offer'. This is particularly interesting against the background of the priority that is given in European discourse to the development of local youth work. Finally, as in previous years, there is comparatively little priority attached to the areas of 'beyond the youth work community of practice' and 'innovation and challenges'.

The broad scope of the priority areas makes it easy for many respondents to relate their activities and initiatives to the priority areas. Some respondents consider the priority areas as a 'one size fits all' solution – there is always a priority area where the initiative will fit. This broad scope also bears challenges as some respondents point out the fluid boundaries between priority areas, thus making categorisation difficult. On the one hand the framework of the EYWA and its eight priority areas are perceived as a valuable reflection tool and on the other are seen to be more challenging to utilise as an operational tool for planning, implementation, and reporting.



THE NATIONAL PROCESSES within the EYWA implementation **Report 2025.**

3. CHALLENGES AND SUPPORT

Developing and implementing a process with different actors from different backgrounds always brings challenges, partly because the actors involved in the process require different types of support. The national processes within the EYWA implementation provide no exception. This chapter discusses the challenges regarding the implementation of the EYWA, the forms of support that are needed, and proposals for mutual learning processes.

3.1. CHALLENGES FOR THE EYWA IMPLEMENTATION

The survey included two questions on challenges. In [section 2.9.](#), the challenges regarding youth work in general were discussed³⁷. This current section relates to these challenges but focusses specifically on the challenges mentioned regarding the implementation of the EYWA, thus taking a more process-related focus³⁸. It should be noted that many of the challenges overlap, for example, the lack of political will and financial and human resources needed to set up and maintain a national process is closely linked to the general challenges of youth work.

Several respondents point out the need to keep the responsible ministry involved, while at the same time there is the observation that some ministries withdraw from active involvement, leaving coordination and implementation to the other stakeholders. This is an interesting observation, because in 70 % of all processes (n=30) and with 75 % of the recurrent respondents (n=20), the national ministries responsible for youth affairs are considered to be one of the main stakeholders in the national processes (see figures 9 and 10).

According to the answers of the respondents, the lack of political will mirrors itself in the lack of financial and human resources to implement the EYWA at national, regional, and local levels.

A continuing concern in the surveys of 2023, 2024, and 2025 is the need for pan-European coordination – beyond the work of the SNAC ‘Growing Youth Work’. This lack of a single European institution or organisation coordinating the implementation efforts is considered to be a challenge. Respondents pointed out that the coordination needed cannot be done by a

³⁷ Question: ‘What challenges can you see as regards to developing youth work in general?’

³⁸ Question: ‘What are the main challenges you are facing in terms of implementing the EYWA?’



THE NATIONAL PROCESSES

within the EYWA implementation **Report 2025.**

single country but should rather be done by a European structure, project, or organisation³⁹. In this regard, the EU-Council of Europe Youth Partnership is mentioned as a body that would fit this criterion. There seems to be an ambivalence towards the work of the SNAC 'Growing Youth Work' with its network of National Agencies and SALTO Resource Centres. However, its work in supporting national processes to strengthen and develop youth work and providing the ways and means to meet, connect, and exchange is greatly valued throughout all the processes.

It should be noted that there are also some critical voices that point out that National Agencies are EU agencies and access of countries without a National Agency can be limited. Nevertheless, the SNAC 'Growing Youth Work' actively reaches out to signatories of the Council of Europe Cultural Convention, and there are many non-EU countries that are active in the activities of the SNAC. At European level, both the Youth Partnership and the SNAC 'Growing Youth Work' are mentioned as possible coordination projects that could bring in complementary strengths.

A further challenge is the lack of monitoring systems, both at European level and in the national processes.⁴⁰ Without clear definitions and distinct indicators for the priority areas, respondents consider it a difficult and complex undertaking to track progress and ensure accountability. The present survey – even though it monitors national processes over time – can only partly cover the need for data as it is not built on indicators and only gives a glimpse of how the EYWA is being implemented. Furthermore, a monitoring and evaluation system regarding local youth

³⁹ In 2022 and 2023, the German government funded the European Service Centre for the Bonn Process at JUGEND für Europa, the German National Agency for Erasmus+ Youth, the European Solidarity Corps and Erasmus+ Sport. The aim of the European Service Centre was to foster cooperation between national processes. Its work was later taken over by the European cooperation project SNAC 'Growing Youth Work'. Although the work of the European Service Centre was welcomed as necessary to keep the EYWA going, it was also criticised as being an initiative of a single country, rather than a joint European initiative (for more information, see Atanasov, Dragan and Hofmann-van de Poll, Frederike (2025): Growing youth work in Europe. Results of the 'Mapping European youth work ecosystems' study. Strasbourg: Youth Partnership. <https://pjp-eu.coe.int/documents/42128013/47261953/Growing%20youth%20work%20in%20Europe%20.pdf/fa278fc6-c816-f531-879f-36fa0939aca7?t=1737638857449> [15 March 2025].

⁴⁰ As part of the priority area 'A common direction for the youth work community of practice', the Final Declaration of the 3rd European Youth Work Convention recommended to 'establish "cooperation evaluation" within a Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) Board to follow progress'. Declaration of the 3rd European Youth Work Convention. Signposts for the future. Bonn/Online, 7-10 December 2020. https://www.growingyouthwork.eu/downloads/publications/2/3rd%20EYWC_final%20Declaration.pdf [15 March 2025].



THE NATIONAL PROCESSES

within the EYWA implementation **Report 2025.**

work could be important for the monitoring of activities developed at local level and for assessing their impact.

Compared to the previous 2023 and 2024 surveys, a new growing challenge is the need for greater coordination between national and local youth work policies, activities, and measures. This includes the need for a transfer of the work of the National Working Groups and National Contact Points to the regional and local level. In the last year, there has been closer cooperation between the SNAC 'Growing Youth Work' and the SNAC 'Europe goes local' in the development of a more coordinated approach to support local as well as national processes. It is a challenge to find an accessible way to transfer knowledge of the EYWA to a broader youth work audience, to keep stakeholders informed and updated, and thus to ensure a sense of ownership. However, some respondents of the 2025 survey pointed out that they don't have information about the activities being developed by the municipalities, youth organisations, and other stakeholders at local level.

Another continuing challenge is in the level of understanding of the significance of the EYWA itself for the strengthening of youth work. This is visible in the comment that implementing the EYWA can be done without naming it as the process of implementing the EYWA – questioning the added value of a European instigated process. In some countries, it seems that referring to the EYWA is not perceived as an added value in the national efforts to strengthen and develop youth work. Added to this is that not all the priorities of the EYWA are clearly defined, and some overlap each other. Rather than fostering alignment, various interpretations by different National Working Groups and National Contact Points raise confusion at European and bilateral meetings.

Discussions sometimes tend to circle around questions on 'what belongs where' and 'what does each category mean', without actually discussing the underlying topics that need to be tackled. At the same time, considering the vast diversity of the youth work field in Europe, there is a need for an overarching framework to make sure everyone can relate to it. At local level, there is a lack of understanding of the purpose of the EYWA, which includes a limited awareness and understanding of the EYWA's objectives and potential impact. This hinders



THE NATIONAL PROCESSES

within the EYWA implementation **Report 2025.**

effective collaboration and engagement at different levels. There is a need for a clear communication strategy on the EYWA⁴¹.

There is an ongoing discussion on the notion of 'EYWA implementation'. This became apparent during the 2024 Exchange Forum on the European Youth Work Agenda in Leuven and is mirrored in the 2025 survey results. The notion of implementation suggests a clear-cut manual or directive, suggesting concrete ways of implementation in the respective national contexts. As pointed out in chapter 2.10 on the conclusions of the eight priority areas, the EYWA is perceived as a valuable reflection tool rather than an operational tool for planning, implementation, and reporting.

As the EYWA provides direction, support to take action, and the opportunity for reflection when addressing concrete actions to be taken, it might be more accurate to refer to the 'development of the EYWA' or 'realisation of the EYWA' or 'putting the EYWA into practice'. With the EYWA as an inspirational framework and support or lobbying tool, the activities of the Youth Partnership, the SNAC 'Growing Youth Work', and to a lesser extent the SNAC 'Europe Goes Local', could be perceived as practical tools for providing concrete services for helping people and organisations turn the EYWA into reality.

3.2. SUPPORT

The need for support to implement the EYWA is clear because of the challenges to youth work in general and the difficulties being experienced in implementing the EYWA. The need for support through recognition, both through political frameworks as well as financial resources, is also clear. The survey asked a question about what kind of support could be provided by the National Working Groups and National Contact Points at national level and at European level.

⁴¹ As part of the priority area 'A strategic framework for youth work development', the Final Declaration of the 3rd European Youth Work Convention called 'upon the European institutions responsible for youth work to establish a robust communication and networking strategy to convey their conviction and commitment to the Bonn process'. Declaration of the 3rd European Youth Work Convention. Signposts for the future. Bonn/Online, 7-10 December 2020.
https://www.growingyouthwork.eu/downloads/publications/2/3rd%20EYWC_final%20Declaration.pdf [15 March 2025].



THE NATIONAL PROCESSES

within the EYWA implementation **Report 2025.**

Figure 21 shows the changes in the needs for European support.⁴² It shows the continuous decrease in the need for information and thematic events from the European level, whereas the need for practical support materials remains steady. Despite its continuous decrease, thematic events are still seen as the second biggest need in terms of support from the European level (Advocacy 67 %, Thematic events 53 %, Mutual learning 53 %). The most important need is advocacy, which is closely related to the challenges, the lack of political will, of financial resources, and of recognition.

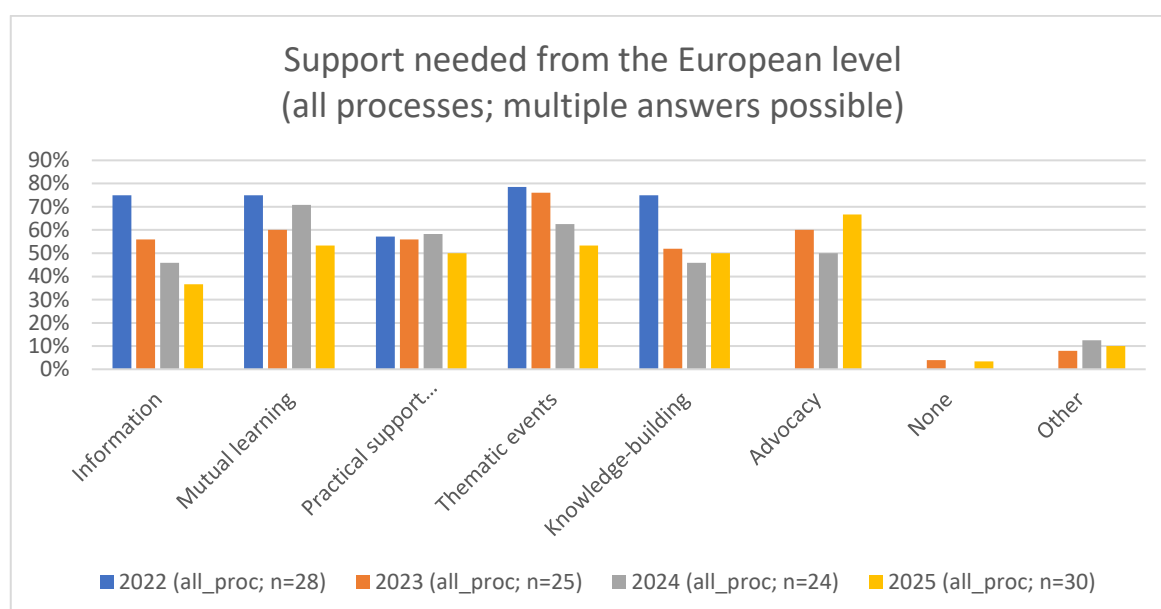


Figure 21: % of respondents who needed a certain kind of support from the European level in 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025

Similar to the European level, there is also not much need for information as a measure of support from the national level. This can be interpreted as there being a sufficient amount of information material to support those seeking information. Similarly, the existing wide range of offers of thematic debate and events at European level may explain why this area is seen as sufficient. There is still a high expectation and need for thematic events related to national topics (63 %). There is a relatively high need for mutual learning activities (67 %) and thematic

⁴² The question of support was first asked in the 2022 Survey, which only asked the question regarding European support: 'Which kind of support at European level would help your national process?', offering the answers 'information', 'exchange formats' [mutual learning], 'practical support', 'thematic events', 'knowledge-building and publications' and 'other'.



THE NATIONAL PROCESSES

within the EYWA implementation **Report 2025.**

events (63 %). Although lower than the need for support from the European level, the need for support in advocacy from the national level, directed towards the regional and local levels, is still considerably high at 57 %.

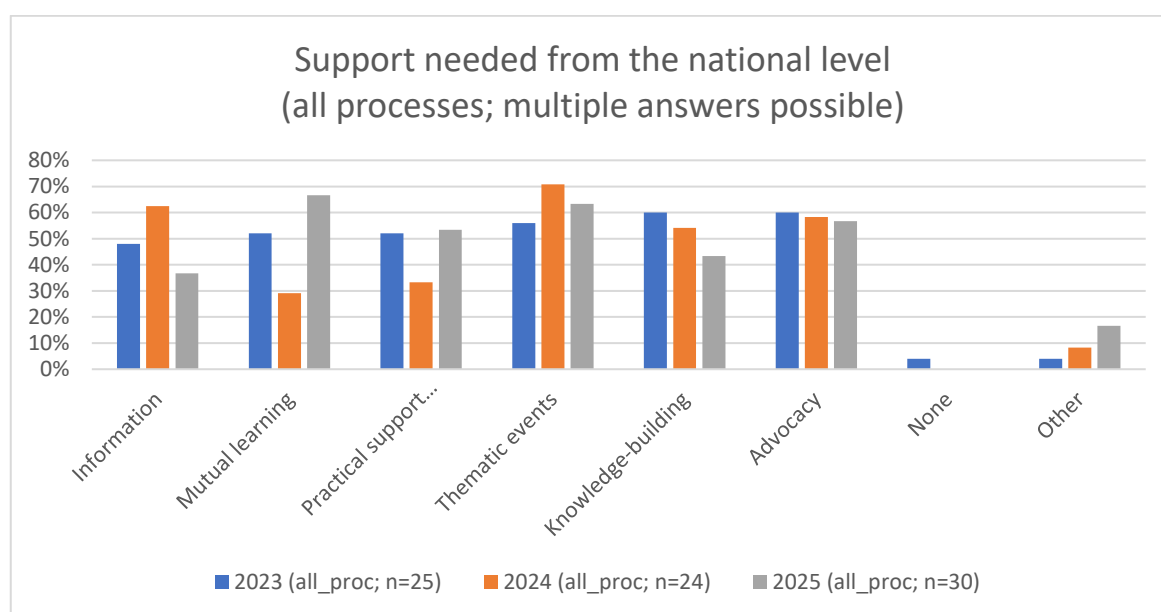


Figure 22: % of respondents who needed a certain kind of support from the national level in 2023, 2024, and 2025

The countries in the analytical group of recurrent respondents have a higher interest in thematic events at European level (Figure 23) and less need, compared to all the other processes, for national thematic events (Figure 24). Similarly, they have a higher need for mutual learning experiences and for advocacy support at European level compared to all other processes.



THE NATIONAL PROCESSES

within the EYWA implementation **Report 2025.**

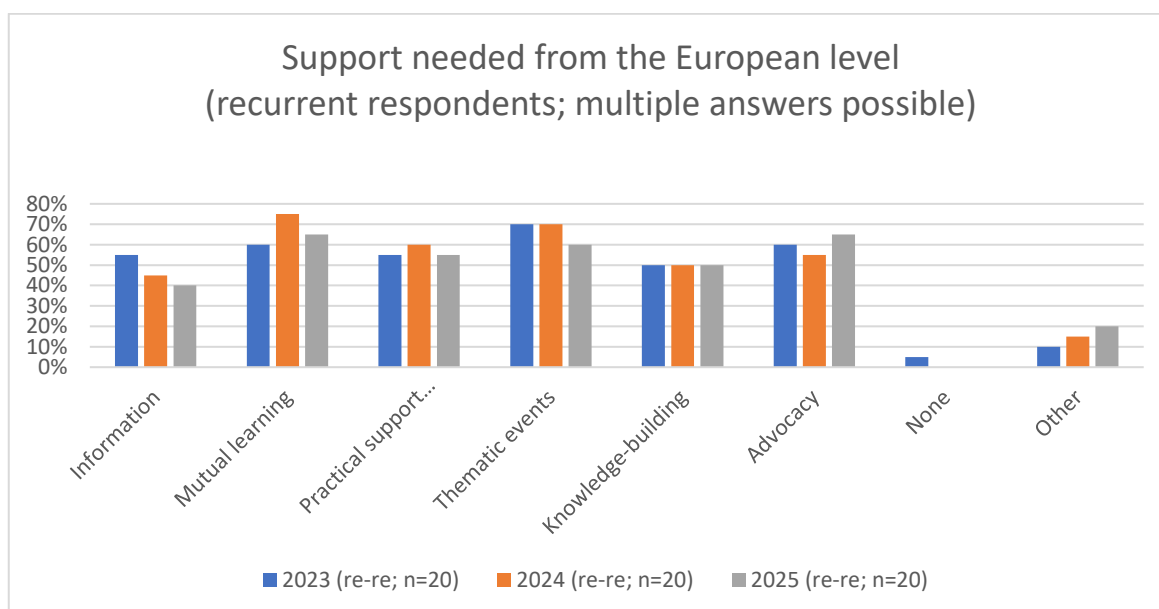


Figure 23: % of the respondents from the group of recurrent respondents who needed support from the European level in 2023, 2024, and 2025

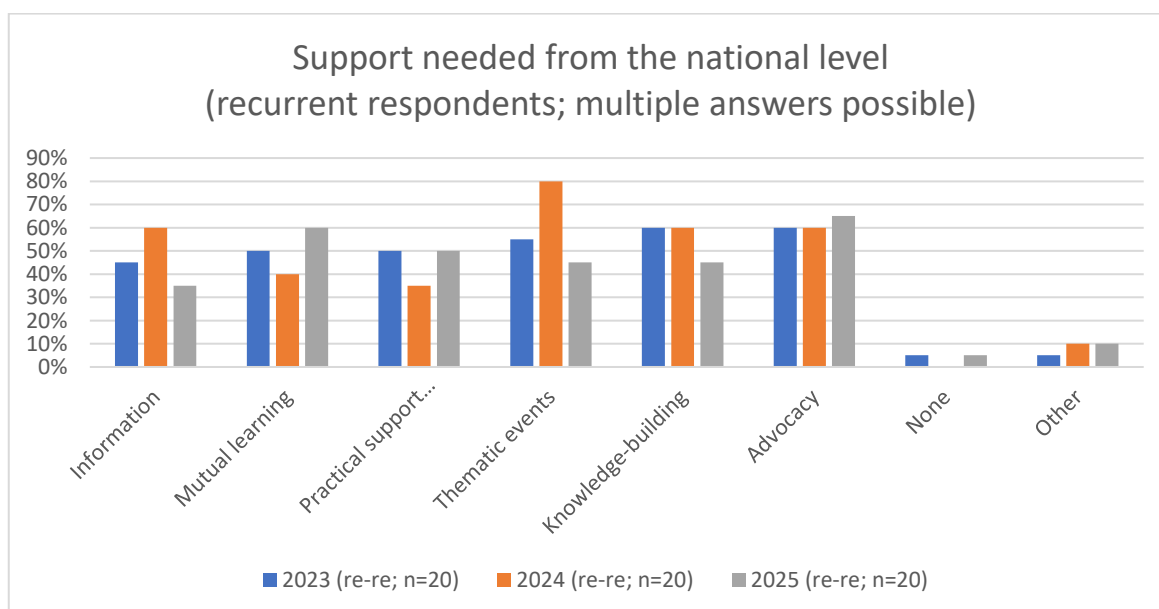


Figure 24: % of the respondents from the group of recurrent respondents who needed support from the national level in 2023, 2024, and 2025

Respondents were also asked for concrete ideas regarding their needs for support. Their answers can be summarised into four different areas.



THE NATIONAL PROCESSES

within the EYWA implementation **Report 2025.**

Need for practical materials and an exchange of knowledge

First, there is a need for practical materials and an exchange of knowledge, which includes the idea of a starter kit on how to develop and strengthen youth work. There are similar existing starter-kits available at the ERYICA-website⁴³ (**Cyprus**) and the Youth Partnership offers a 'thinking and action kit' on youth work development⁴⁴. It would also be helpful to have more materials promoting and underlining the civic mission of (European) youth work to gain more political support and recognition (**Netherlands**). There is a language barrier for many youth workers and youth organisations preventing them from being active in the EYWA.

Translations and adaptations of the available materials should become a priority when it comes to support measures (**Italy**). One important initiative is the sharing of practices, which lets others know what is being done in other countries in this area and supports the replication or adaptation of initiatives in the national or local context. These practices can be activities, projects, materials, or other initiatives that can help and support other countries in the implementation of the EYWA and improve the quality of the activities that are already being implemented (**Portugal**).

Need for structural and strategic support

Second, structural and strategic support would enhance the implementation of the EYWA. This could be done for example through the National Contact Points. These should be built and established as organisations with the capacity to drive the implementation of the EYWA at all levels according to country size (**Germany**).

There is a need for a more structured approach to peer learning opportunities concerning the realisation of the EYWA objectives in national contexts and based on national priorities. This would include network opportunities for National Contact Points, youth work associations, and other non-governmental organisations from the involved countries (**Croatia**). As suggested by **Austria**, this would include the expansion of communication and mutual learning between

⁴³ <https://www.eryica.org/publications/starter-kit> [15 March 2025].

⁴⁴ Hadžibegović, Ajša and Küntzel, Bastian (2022): Insights into developing the youth work environment. A thinking and action kit. Strasbourg: Youth Partnership. <https://pjp-eu.coe.int/documents/42128013/105305579/014722+Insights+YW+environment+EN.pdf/d255be35-91e8-188f-6c2d-d98aa394c6ff?t=1667833567000> [17 April 2025].



THE NATIONAL PROCESSES

within the EYWA implementation **Report 2025.**

national and regional stakeholders. This would help increase the strategic alignment of national processes as well as local and regional processes and efforts.

Need for funding mechanisms for implementation

Thirdly, accompanying the structural and strategic support, there is a clear need for funding mechanisms for implementation. This includes new funding mechanisms outside the current funding programmes (**Germany**) as well as the continuing financial support for National Contact Points for them to have the capacity to implement the EYWA project at national and European levels (**Ireland**). Closely related to funding mechanisms is the need for political recognition and support. This could, for example, be enhanced by including the National Contact Points in all delegations for the 4th European Youth Work Convention.

Need for more European cooperation and coordination

Fourthly, there is a considerable need for more European cooperation and coordination. This could, for example, be done by connecting countries that share similar strategic goals for advancing youth work (**Serbia**). Establishing such structured networks for mutual support, collaboration, and exchange of challenges and good practices would significantly enhance national efforts. Such coordination could take the form of thematic working groups, study visits, peer-learning initiatives, or EU-supported platforms that facilitate knowledge-sharing and joint actions.

More targeted funding and capacity-building programmes aimed at strengthening national youth work ecosystems would be beneficial. Additional support in advocacy should be provided at national level (**Croatia**). Existing European instruments should be used to provide advocacy, guidelines, and pressure to national processes. The SNAC 'Growing Youth Work' can further support structuring national processes by focusing on several key priorities (as defined by the partners) and developing activities aimed at different stakeholders.

3.3. MUTUAL LEARNING INTERESTS

One of the main pillars of international youth work and European funding programmes is enhancing cross-border inspiration and mutual learning and is one of the areas where support is needed. By sharing knowledge, best practices, and innovative ideas, youth workers can enhance the quality and effectiveness of their work with young people. The exchange of ideas and experiences between different countries and regions can lead to new insights, solutions, and approaches that can benefit youth work as a whole. Figure 25 shows that the main areas



THE NATIONAL PROCESSES within the EYWA implementation **Report 2025.**

in which there is an interest in mutual learning correspond to the areas that are most relevant to the respondents, for example quality development as well as promotion and recognition.

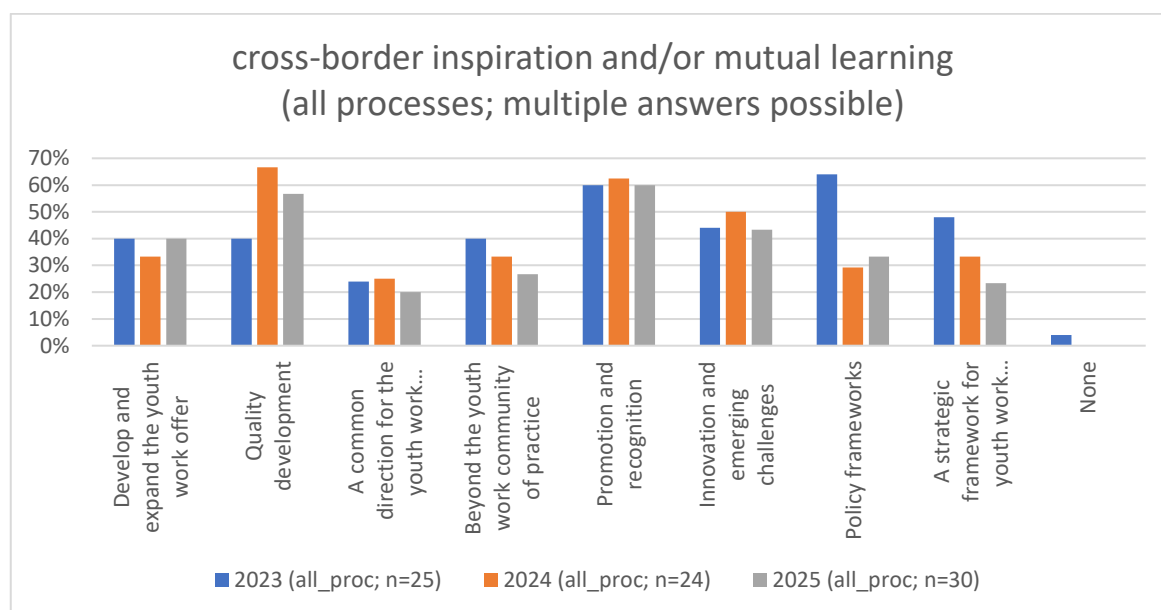


Figure 25: % of respondents who would like to see mutual learning projects in the respective priority areas

Concrete suggestions for mutual learning are made in three areas.

Mutual learning through common development of projects

First, relating to cooperation, it is suggested that a common development of Erasmus+ Youth project proposals could enhance cross-border cooperation (**Bosnia and Herzegovina**). It could be beneficial if the plans, activities, and results of the different SNACs could be presented, and it could be regularly discussed. For example, could the project management teams of the SNACs be more connected, so the activities and results could be more intertwined (**Croatia**). Another aspect is having the space to learn from established structures, for example through study visits (**Cyprus**) or the mapping of examples of good practices, and discussing their transferability into national realities (**Czechia**).

Probably one of the best examples of successful cross-border inspiration and mutual learning, in the framework of implementation of the EYWA, is the establishment of the Alliance of Youth Workers Associations (AYWA). The network is strengthening cross-border cooperation for youth work and is a support for the advocacy of youth work recognition and development. It



THE NATIONAL PROCESSES within the EYWA implementation **Report 2025.**

will expand the youth work offer and most importantly, it will draw a common direction for the youth work community of practice.

Mutual learning for the development of political frameworks

Second, respondents discussed an interest in mutual learning for the development of political frameworks. This can be achieved by focusing on the structural and strategic further development of youth work. This needs to include more attention to the practical development of funding and other mechanisms for supporting the implementation of the EYWA (**Germany**). Further cross-border inspiration could come from the identification of European synergies through national activities, thus shaping annual working plans and developing strategic frameworks accordingly (**Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland**).

Mutual learning regarding the education and training of youth workers

Third, there is a clear need to discuss mutual learning regarding the education and training of youth workers. Building on Estonian practice, **Armenia** now aims to implement a certification programme for youth workers. The goal of the programme is to ensure that youth workers are adequately trained and their work as well as their skills are officially recognised. Similarly, the **Flemish Community of Belgium** set up a study visit to Estonia to have a closer look at the youth worker education programme there. **Latvia** and **Portugal** are developing a new youth worker professional profile and have expressed interest in the survey for cross-border inspiration on this topic.



THE NATIONAL PROCESSES within the EYWA implementation **Report 2025.**

4. THE EUROPEAN YOUTH WORK AGENDA AND LOCAL YOUTH WORK

Youth work, ultimately, is practiced at local level. It needs political frameworks and support, provision of financial resources, and education and training offers at regional, national, and European levels. But ultimately, when it comes to empowering young people on a day-to-day basis, it is the local environment and the local youth work that does the work. This is reflected in the EYWA priority area of 'develop and expand the youth work offer'. Over the years, relating the EYWA to local youth work has become more prominent in the surveys. The transfer of European instigated policies, such as the EYWA, to the national, regional, and finally local level, has become a topic of debate. For this reason, the 2025 survey included a question on local youth work 'To what extent did the existence of a national process on the EYWA have an impact on strengthening local youth work?'.

In several countries, the EYWA has had a strong positive impact on local youth work. In general, the existence of the national processes is important as each country has a different youth work reality. Through the establishment of the National Contact Points, the EYWA is being implemented in unique ways because of the individualised approach by each national reality. Being a National Contact Point provides non-governmental organisations with a bigger validation to discuss youth work matters with authorities (**Greece**).

In **Armenia**, the EYWA contributed to the development of local youth work by improving the quality and scope of youth services. It fostered youth participation and enhanced the skills of youth workers. The biggest impact a national process had was in **Estonia** where a platform was created to regularly bring together stakeholders and interest groups. They would come together to discuss, find solutions, and consider various aspects and objectives of youth work and youth policy.

Cyprus has used the national process to connect the local to the European level. The Cypriot national process includes the local level as one major stakeholder in the development, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of its actions. This gives recognition to the local level and space to further develop and grow by following the events and activities implemented



THE NATIONAL PROCESSES

within the EYWA implementation **Report 2025.**

at European level. In **Ireland**, around 100 local youth work organisations participated in consultations on the Bonn Appetit report⁴⁵, thus raising awareness for local youth work.

The **Portuguese** government used the EYWA to develop a National Youth Work Strategy. This Strategy aims to contribute to and reinforce youth work, including at local level. The measure ‘Development of the knowledge area of IPDJ portal (Instituto Português do Desporto e Juventude) in order to promote integrated services, materials, and activities with and for young people’ contributes to inform and support municipalities and youth organisations at local level. The measure ‘Promote the creation and development of pedagogical manuals to support the training of the youth worker professional profile for the new modules of the National Qualifications Catalogue’ also supports municipalities and youth organisations to develop youth work at local level.

In other countries however, the EYWA has only had an indirect or even limited impact on local youth work. **Austria**, for example, points out that the EYWA gave a framework and common understanding in finding motivated multipliers and networkers at all levels. This was especially through the engagement of umbrella organisations and the possibilities to participate at European conferences and meetings.

In **Germany**, there are some positive examples of how the EYWA has an impact on local youth work in some cities (e. g. Bremen, Hamburg, and Berlin). This is organisation-led and consists of unrelated and unconnected activities. However, this process is still having a clear impact. As more opportunities are reaching young people at local level and more institutions are getting involved with the European opportunities, the impact is that more people are understanding the need for creating synergies between the EYWA and local strategies for young people and youth work. However, there are hardly any structures for fostering systemic implementation.

After three years of implementation, understanding the political process and the needs for the EYWA, the ways it can be used, and how the synergies can be created, is slowly increasing. The **German** National Contact Point selected eight communities for Local Partnerships, with whom they are developing action plans connecting to various aspects of the EYWA. Similarly, in **the Flemish Community of Belgium** a national process does exist, but its impact at local level is

⁴⁵ <https://www.youth.ie/documents/bonn-appetit-bonn-process/> [15 March 2025].



THE NATIONAL PROCESSES within the EYWA implementation **Report 2025.**

indirect and based on a trickle-down effect, where strategic actions and decisions slowly reach the local level.

The situation is similar in **Serbia**, where the limited impact of the existing national process remains the main challenge. Despite the development of key national-level documents, local policies and budgets, they are not fully aligned and are only making minimal progress in ensuring continuous youth work provision at local level. This gap significantly reduces the impact of national-level advancements as youth work is ultimately implemented at local level, which is where the young people engage with services and programmes.

For example, while national strategies may outline clear priorities and frameworks for youth work development, many municipalities in Serbia lack the necessary resources or commitment to implement them effectively. Without dedicated local funding and structured support, national efforts remain theoretical, rather than resulting in tangible improvements in youth work practice on the ground. Addressing this disconnect requires stronger mechanisms to ensure that local authorities align with national strategies, commit adequate budgets, and recognise the essential role of youth work in community development.

With a third group of countries there is an insufficient or even lack of impact at local level. In **Italy** for example, the national process has been conducted mainly at the macro-regional level by the National Agency. It has also happened at local and regional levels but is carried out directly by stakeholders in the field. The input received at European level by the National Agency about the EYWA and its implementation process has been the starting point, but the existence of the implementation process in the field is almost unknown.

Ukraine and **Malta** both point out that the impact on local youth work comes from national laws and governmental policy, rather than the EYWA. In **Croatia**, **the Flemish Community of Belgium**, and other countries, the SNAC 'Europe Goes Local' takes a role in strengthening local youth work through a range of European and national activities. As a partnership of 29 national partners, it is an initiative that transcends the national context and as such contributes to the EYWA. In activities and communication, the tailored instruments and frameworks of Europe Goes Local (such as the Charter on Local Youth Work) receive a lot of attention. Interestingly, it is the EYWA that is the strategic and often invisible backbone of this work. The intent of the SNACs 'Growing Youth Work' and 'Europe Goes Local' to cooperate more closely and realise synergies for better alignment of support for national and local youth work development is a consistent need.



THE NATIONAL PROCESSES within the EYWA implementation **Report 2025.**

5. OUTLOOK: THE 4TH EUROPEAN YOUTH WORK CONVENTION

The Survey Reports on the development of national processes within the EYWA implementation, provide first and foremost the aim for analysing developments at the national level. It also provides opportunities for peer-learning and showing how and where adjustments in European and national support and implementation may be needed. With the upcoming 4th European Youth Work Convention, the survey also provided an opportunity to identify some of the challenges and questions on the EYWA relevant to discussions that will take place at the 4th European Youth Work Convention and the roadmap that will be developed from it.

5.1. EYWA AND THE TOPICS OF THE CONVENTION

The EYWA consists of eight thematic priority areas which cover the broadness of youth work in Europe. However, they also overlap and indeed, one of the challenges of implementing the EYWA is the perceived difficulty to connect measures and activities singularly to just one of the priority areas. With recognition for example, it was already noted in the Survey Report 2024 that it can serve both as a stand-alone priority area but also as a precondition and an outcome of other priority areas⁴⁶.

The organisers of the 4th European Youth Work Convention decided to underpin the Convention with three vertical themes: Youth Work Core, Youth Work Environment, and Youth Work Systems⁴⁷.

- **Youth Work Core** entails a common vision for youth work and its future. It will focus on definitions and descriptions of youth work, values and ethics, recognition and visibility, quality and standards, and monitoring and evaluation.

⁴⁶ Hofmann-van de Poll, Frederike (2024): The State of Play of National Processes within the European Youth Work Agenda Implementation. Survey Report 2023. Bonn: JUGEND für Europa, p. 58.
https://www.growingyouthwork.eu/downloads/publications/62/Bonn-Process_Survey-Report_national-processes_2024.pdf?version=1dfe5f8b1b31a54d3be1cf417fc78b41 [15 March 2025].

⁴⁷ 4th European Youth Work Convention Guide for participants.
<https://online.fliphtml5.com/rqmms/mwqd/#p=14> [27 March 2025].



THE NATIONAL PROCESSES

within the EYWA implementation **Report 2025.**

- **Youth Work Environment** is about supporting young people by addressing their needs and aspirations, ensuring their access, inclusion, participation, and empowerment. This includes advocacy in youth work; the role of employed and volunteer youth workers and youth leaders and their education, training, and recognition as well as youth work methodologies, tools, approaches, and new technologies.
- **Youth Work Systems** focusses on policy and strategy at European, national, regional, and local levels, covering the voluntary youth sector and youth work associations, networks, centres, and service providers. It also includes cooperation between state/public and voluntary sectors at different levels, state/public and EU/EYF funding and resources for youth work, and youth work's interaction with other policy fields.

As the following figure shows, the topics of the EYWA⁴⁸ are reflected in these three vertical themes⁴⁹:

⁴⁸ Taken from the Factsheet on the Final Declaration of the 3rd European Youth Work Convention. <https://www.growingyouthwork.eu/downloads/publications/42/EYWC2020%20-%20Factsheet%20Final%20Declaration.pdf?version=fc160567b9e55215344553792e5b3e0c> [17 April 2025].

⁴⁹ Taken from the Concept Note on the 4th European Youth Work Convention. <https://pjp-eu.coe.int/documents/42128013/266254265/4th%20European%20Youth%20Work%20Convention%20Concept%20Note.pdf/d0622c9e-7185-4259-a3bb-29ed9d1f7221?t=1733846110065> [17 April 2025].

YOUTH WORK CORE

A common vision for youth work and its future. It will focus on definitions and descriptions of youth work, values and ethics, recognition and visibility, quality and standards, and monitoring and evaluation.

Policy frameworks

Apply research based and rights-based approaches in policy making and implementation

A common direction for the youth work community of practice

Map the community of practice and establish working relationships
Provide information and capacity building on the European dimension
Establish a monitoring, evaluation, and learning board to follow progress
Implement a European Youth Work Convention every five years

Promotion and recognition

Develop measures to validate learning in youth work, in formal education

Quality development

Broaden implementation of existing quality frameworks, systems, and support structures
Establish a youth work research agenda
Establish occupational standards for the education and training of youth workers

Innovation and emerging challenges

Support actions providing safety and mental health for young people
Improve smart youth work by investing in infrastructure and competence development
Make youth work greener
Advocate for youth work as one of the primary civic society development strategies
Support young people's engagement in a democratic society

Beyond the youth work community of practice

Communicate the value of youth work

YOUTH WORK ENVIRONMENTS

Supporting young people by addressing their needs and aspirations, ensuring their access, inclusion, participation, and empowerment. This includes advocacy in youth work; the role of employed and volunteer youth workers and youth leaders and their education, training, and recognition as well as youth work methodologies, tools, approaches, and new technologies.

Policy frameworks

Support the involvement of young people and youth workers in policymaking and implementation

A common direction for the youth work community of practice

Develop and promote a European digital platform on youth work

Promotion and recognition

Organise peer learning activities
Organise events, such as campaigns or yearly thematic days

Develop and expand the youth work offer

Realise the local youth work offer
Use quality standards
Strengthen the local youth work community of practice

Quality development

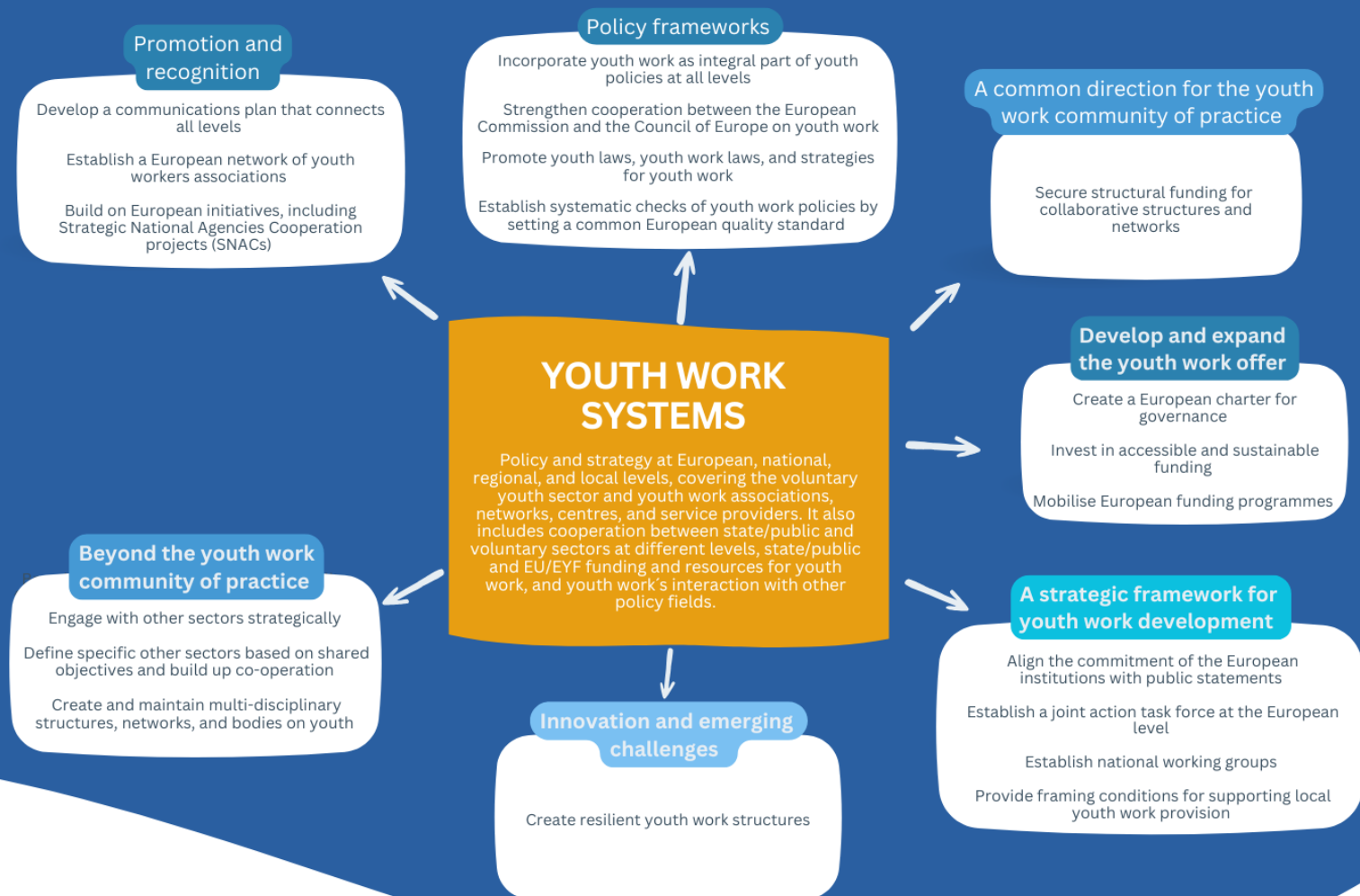
Strengthen and establish networks and structures for co-operation and co-creation
Establish information and processes for dialogue

Innovation and emerging challenges

Create innovation hubs for progressive and pioneering youth work

A strategic framework for youth work development

Anchor ownership of the Bonn Process/implementation of the EYWA throughout the whole youth work community of practice
Establish a robust communications and networking strategy



Although not an official – institutional or member states adopted – document, the Declaration of the 3rd European Youth Work Convention and its eight thematic priority areas are often given the status of being the European Youth Work Agenda⁵⁰ by many in the community of practice. Considering the developments and challenges recalled in this and previous reports, there are some lessons that can be learned and should be mentioned regarding the 4th European Youth Work Convention and its proposed roadmap.

5.2. MESSAGES TO THE 4TH EUROPEAN YOUTH WORK CONVENTION

Many of the respondents of the survey have a connection to the European Youth Work Conventions and the implementation of the EYWA. Based on their experiences, they were therefore asked for their thoughts about the 4th European Youth Work Convention⁵¹. Their

⁵⁰ See Atanasov, Dragan and Hofmann-van de Poll, Frederike (2025): Growing youth work in Europe. Results of the 'Mapping European youth work ecosystems' study. Strasbourg: Youth Partnership. <https://pjp-eu.coe.int/documents/42128013/47261953/Growing%20youth%20work%20in%20Europe%20.pdf/fa278fc6-c816-f531-879f-36fa0939aca7?t=1737638857449> [15 March 2025].

⁵¹ Question 'What message would you give to the organisers and participants of the 4th European Youth Work Convention in Malta, 27-30 May 2025?'.



THE NATIONAL PROCESSES

within the EYWA implementation **Report 2025.**

thoughts can be categorised into four areas: process, organisational, content-wise, and outreach.

From a process point of view, there is a call for clear structures and cooperation. First, the European Youth Work Conventions are seen as a process, one which has developed continually since the 1st European Youth Work Convention in 2010. As a process, they are a platform empowering the youth work field and securing the future of youth work. To function, however, they should be underpinned with a clearer and continuous structure. Where the 3rd European Youth Work Convention brought the EYWA to life, the role of the 4th European Youth Work Convention should be transforming this vision, with its eight thematic priority areas, into concrete steps.

The relationship between the eight priority areas and the 4th European Youth Work Convention, particularly the three convention themes, should be made visible to show the continuous process of the Conventions. At the same time, some respondents highlighted the need for holding on to the recommendations of the past, rather than starting the process from scratch again. This warning becomes especially meaningful against the background of the comments of some other respondents. They commented that the process of implementing the European Youth Work Agenda would end with the 4th European Youth Work Convention with the subsequent roadmap being a new start.

As such, the question of how the EYWA and the roadmap relate becomes all the more relevant. This includes to what extent the implementation of the EYWA and its supporting structures such as the National Contact Points, the SNAC 'Growing Youth Work', and the support of the EYWA by the Youth Partnership continue to exist.

At the organisational level, there is an explicit call towards the organisers of the Convention to invite all National Contact Points – not all National Contact Points are part of the national delegations. The role of relevant Ministries at the Convention and afterwards should be set more into focus, calling on them for more support, involvement, and financial resources for implementation processes. The announcement of a preparation-booklet for the national delegations⁵² connects to the call of several respondents for information, so people can

⁵² <https://online.fliphtml5.com/rqmmms/mwqd/#p=1> [4 May 2025].



THE NATIONAL PROCESSES

within the EYWA implementation **Report 2025.**

prepare for the 4th European Youth Work Convention. In this regard, it is suggested to provide participants with good practice examples related to the three core themes of the Convention. This would allow participants to relate easily to the contents and results of the Convention, thus transferring these back to their work environment.

Content-wise, facing an increasingly interconnected and challenging world, the need for strengthening innovative, inclusive, and accessible youth work is urgent. More efforts for youth work, including investments in youth work and non-formal education is requested as the long-term and sustainable answer to current geopolitical challenges. Against this background, quality youth work and its recognition are the main thematic areas to be discussed. These areas are closely interlinked, for example the education and training of youth workers and the recognition of competencies of youth workers who are not certified.

A further topic to be discussed is how local youth work can be promoted, reinforced and improved by youth work stakeholders at local level. Apart from questioning the added value and recognition of youth work in society in general, as seen in section 2.9., there is also the question of how a European and national process of EYWA implementation can contribute to society in general and the development of youth work in particular. The answer to this question should be made clearly visible when presenting the roadmap.

On the topic of outreach, after the Convention there is an urgent need for a 'robust networking and communication strategy'⁵³ to be implemented. This is reflected in the need to translate the EYWA into concrete measures and laws to strengthen youth work in the long term. The roadmap process following the 4th European Youth Work Convention should provide a clear structure and cooperation mechanisms for the different stakeholder groups to do their respective parts within an overall joint strategic plan. The follow-up plan needs to be clear by the final session of the 4th European Youth Work Convention. This is so that the national delegations and European stakeholders will leave the event with a clear understanding of their individual role and next steps. It is also important that they leave with knowledge and

⁵³ Declaration of the 3rd European Youth Work Convention. Signposts for the future. Bonn/Online, 7-10 December 2020.
https://www.growingyouthwork.eu/downloads/publications/2/3rd%20EYWC_final%20Declaration.pdf [15 March 2025].



THE NATIONAL PROCESSES

within the EYWA implementation **Report 2025.**

understanding of the mechanisms for cooperation, communication, and monitoring at European level.

Based on the non-binding nature of the previous declarations of the European Youth Work Conventions, there are some notes of caution that need to be made about the character of the roadmap. As it is not a political document, some respondents will assume that it has the most value for non-governmental actors. A connection between the roadmap and the Ministerial Conference of the Council of Europe in October 2025 in Malta needs to be made. This should include an appeal to governments to support the roadmap both with financial and personal resources. This would very much strengthen the process.

This is particularly relevant in the light of the previously mentioned EYWA implementation challenges ([chapter 3.1](#)), where it was mentioned that there is a contradiction in the perceived need for political involvement. This involvement needs to come from the responsible ministry as they are one of the main stakeholders of the EYWA. However, it has been observed that some ministries withdraw active involvement, leaving coordination and implementation to other stakeholders. For the roadmap to be successful, a clear political commitment beyond the 4th European Youth Work Convention is therefore of utmost importance.

In the end, many respondents tried to convey their message to the organisers and participants of the 4th European Youth Work Convention in one sentence, leading to a number of inspirational quotes:

- ‘Empower Youth, Strengthen Communities!’
- ‘Invest in Youth Work, Invest in the Future!’
- ‘Recognition, Resources, Resilience – The Future of Youth Work!’
- ‘From Policy to Practice – Let’s Make Youth Work Count!’
- ‘Stronger Together: Building a Sustainable Future for Youth Work!’
- ‘Can’t Stop, Won’t Stop!’
- ‘Make It Count!’
- ‘Be Specific, Be Practical, Be Inspirational with Concrete Live Examples!’
- ‘Good Work, Everyone! But There’s Much More We Need to Do – No Time to Relax!’



THE NATIONAL PROCESSES within the EYWA implementation **Report 2025.**

- 'If We Can Assume that Young People Can Be Negatively Influenced, We Can also Assume that They Can Be Positively Influenced.'



THE NATIONAL PROCESSES within the EYWA implementation **Report 2025.**

6. CONCLUSIONS

What can be concluded from these results, also - but not only - in comparison to the conclusions of the previous Survey Reports⁵⁴?

1. The number of countries with a managed national process in the context of the EYWA implementation process has stabilised⁵⁵.
2. There is an analytical group of recurrent respondents, covering 20 national processes, answering the surveys of 2023, 2024, and 2025. Within this group, we see an expanding involvement of different stakeholders over the years and an increased perception of local progress.
3. The 2025 survey includes 'new' countries that have never answered the survey before (Armenia, Italy, Moldova, and Ukraine). The SNAC 'Growing Youth Work' network is continuously growing, thus increasing the outreach of the survey. The upcoming 4th European Youth Work Convention seems to support this trend.
4. There is considerably more perceived progress on the implementation of the EYWA at national, regional, and local level, compared to the 2024 survey.
5. 'Quality youth work' is considered the most relevant priority area, thus changing places with last year's number one, 'promotion and recognition', with 'policy frameworks' following up.

⁵⁴ Hofmann-van de Poll, Frederike (2023): The State of Play of National Processes within the Bonn Process. Survey Report 2023. Bonn: JUGEND für Europa.
https://www.growingyouthwork.eu/downloads/publications/52/Bonn_Process_2023_State_of_Play_Survey_Report.pdf?version=1562ccd5ab0957221063fc28aab174aa [15 March 2025];
Hofmann-van de Poll, Frederike (2024): The State of Play of National Processes within the European Youth Work Agenda Implementation. Survey Report 2023. Bonn: JUGEND für Europa.
https://www.growingyouthwork.eu/downloads/publications/62/Bonn-Process_Survey-Report_national-processes_2024.pdf?version=1dfe5f8b1b31a54d3be1cf417fc78b41 [15 March 2025].

⁵⁵ 2022: 18 national processes; 2023: 28 national processes; 2024: 35 national processes; 2025: 36 national processes



THE NATIONAL PROCESSES within the EYWA implementation **Report 2025.**

6. There is little relevance attached to the priority areas of ‘innovation and challenges’ as well as ‘beyond the youth work community of practice’. This may be since these areas are being covered anyway and so are not being perceived as being a priority.
7. The broad scope of the priority areas makes it easy for many processes to categorise their activities and initiatives. However, as the boundaries between the priority areas are fluid and they sometimes overlap, some national processes have difficulties with categorising measures in the eight priority areas. The three convention themes (youth work core, youth work environment, and youth work system) may provide a way of dealing with this challenge.
8. The perceived lack of particularly political and social recognition may be one of the reasons why so many measures are taken in the area of ‘quality development’. As concluded last year, recognition may serve as an outcome and pre-condition of quality development, rather than as a stand-alone priority area.
9. There is a need for a monitoring system for process implementation based on repeating indicators and questions. The survey may serve as a blueprint of how such a monitoring system could look.
10. The coordination of measures, activities, and initiatives organised by governmental authorities, non-governmental organisations, and by local, regional, national, and European levels is complicated. The role of National Contact Points could be strengthened to enhance coordination. At European level, both the Youth Partnership and the SNAC ‘Growing Youth Work’ are mentioned as possible coordination projects that could bring in complementary strengths.
11. There is a persistent need for a clear and robust communication strategy on the EYWA and European efforts to support strengthening and developing youth work in Europe.
12. Effective implementation of the EYWA at local level requires clearly defined priorities and better coordination between all levels and stakeholders.
13. Without binding structures, sufficient financial resources and the involvement of local authorities, it is difficult for European and national initiatives to strengthen local youth



THE NATIONAL PROCESSES

within the EYWA implementation **Report 2025.**

work. Initiatives such as the SNAC 'Growing Youth Work' and the SNAC 'Europe Goes Local' may provide a bridge between European strategies and local practice.

14. For national processes to thrive, there is a need for support regarding advocacy, thematic events, and forms of mutual learning, to be organised and initiated by the European and the national level.
15. Regarding concrete examples, there is a need for practical materials and an exchange of knowledge and there is a need for structural and strategic support to enhance the implementation of the EYWA. There is a need for funding mechanisms for implementation and there is a considerable need for more European cooperation and coordination.
16. The implementation of a European initiated process like the EYWA is of great value for the development of youth work in Europe. However, it also bears the risk of lacking commitment to that implementation. To tackle this risk regarding the upcoming roadmap, there is a need for continuous communication about the roadmap with continuous efforts to include all, but a particular emphasis on political, stakeholders.
17. Regarding the roadmap process, announced to start after the 4th European Youth Work Convention and to be finished before the Council of Europe Youth Ministerial Conference in October 2025, lessons can be learned from the challenges encountered at the implementation of the European Youth Work Agenda. This includes the need for a monitoring system, a coordinating project or body, and a clear political commitment all over Europe to implement the roadmap at European, national, regional, and local levels.
18. The 4th European Youth Work Convention should build on the knowledge and experience gathered since the 3rd European Youth Work Convention in December 2020.

6.1. QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

The analysis of the EYWA implementation processes shows a stabilisation of national processes as well as an increasing reach of the survey in 2025. This is possibly influenced by the upcoming European Youth Work Convention and the continuous community-building efforts of the SNAC 'Growing Youth Work'. The perception of progress at national, regional, and local levels has improved, with the 'quality of youth work' now seen as the most important priority area. At



THE NATIONAL PROCESSES

within the EYWA implementation **Report 2025.**

the same time, there are challenges in categorising measures into the eight priority areas, particularly due to their overlap.

The need for systematic monitoring is emphasised, and the survey could serve as a template for such a system. Coordination problems between different actors and levels emphasise the role of National Contact Points and European cooperation projects. While the European approach of the EYWA is recognised as valuable for youth work development, there is a risk of a lack of commitment to the actual implementation.

The 4th European Youth Work Convention should build on the lessons learnt so far, especially regarding the planned roadmap. Its successful implementation requires effective monitoring, clear coordination and binding political commitment at all levels.

In view of the results of this Survey Report 2025, it is recommended that the following questions (among others) are discussed at the next Exchange Forum:

- How can local youth work be further developed and strengthened through the means of the European Youth Work Agenda and the roadmap? What role can the established structures of National Contact Points and the SNAC 'Growing Youth Work' (and cooperation with the SNAC 'Europe Goes Local') play in this regard?
- Against the background of a perceived lack of political support in the Reports 2023, 2024, and 2025 and the fact that most National Contact Points are ministries, how can political support for youth work be strengthened? Is there a need to differentiate political support between government officials and civil servants and those in high positions with decision-making capacity? Which support measures could help tackle this perceived lack of political support?
- Which support measures should be prioritised and how could they be realised?
- On the current structure of National Contact Points and Exchange Fora:
 - How can the current structure of exchange and cooperation be part of the roadmap?
 - Bearing in mind that most National Contact Points are ministries or National Agencies, what is the role of National Contact Points in the roadmap?
 - How to continue with the survey, data collection and evaluation?