

Call for applications

Evaluation study of the research and policy strand of the Partnership on Youth between the Council of Europe and the European Commission

Context: Since a specific agreement on youth research has been set up in 2003, the Council of Europe and the European Commission have been continuously cooperating in the field of youth research. From 2005 this cooperation became part of an overall Partnership Agreement with the aim to provide a lasting framework for the joint development of a coherent strategy in the field of youth worker training, youth policy and youth research. Since coming into force of the 2nd Framework Partnership Agreement, the research strand has been complemented by activities aiming specifically at the development of youth policy in neighbouring regions of the European Union. After 5 years of Partnership engagement in the field of research and policy, the evaluation should contribute to the future orientation of this Partnership strand by exposing its strengths and weaknesses.

Main aims of the Partnership research activities are to

- produce and further develop a better understanding and knowledge of youth and provide this knowledge, in particular via the European Knowledge Centre for Youth Policy (EKCYC)
- contribute to the further development of youth policy and youth work with the aim to foster evidence-based youth policy;
- promote dialogue and networking between researchers, policy makers and practitioners and within these groups.

For this purpose, the Partnership makes use of the following methods and tools:

- Interdisciplinary thematic research seminars on relevant topics with the participation of youth policy makers and practitioners and
- research publications as follow up products of the thematic research seminars

- a network of experts on youth research and information which supports the Partnership through its expertise in the field; the network meets annually
- workshops on youth policy with a regional focus in cooperation with institutions from the national and European level
- commission of scientific studies and other research projects (e.g. literature reviews)

For further details on the above mentioned elements, please see:
[\[http://www.youth-partnership.net/youth-partnership/research/index\]](http://www.youth-partnership.net/youth-partnership/research/index)

and in particular,

- a virtual *European Knowledge Centre for Youth Policy* together with a network of national correspondents, set up in 2005 serving as a platform for the provision of knowledge on youth policy and the exchange of information and dialogue across the youth field
[\[http://www.youth-partnership.net/youth-partnership/ekcyp/index\]](http://www.youth-partnership.net/youth-partnership/ekcyp/index).

Aims of the study:

The study will analyse the past activities and evaluate their relevance, with the aim to enhance effectiveness, coherency, cost efficiency and adequacy of future performance within this Partnership strand. It should

- be conceived as an ex-ante evaluation to review the pertinence of the methods and tools applied with regard to the achievement of the objectives mentioned above
- formulate the long-term needs and expectations of the stakeholders involved
- propose optimal strategies adapted to the institutional realities, and, in sum,
- produce recommendations suggesting most sustainable ways of choosing priorities, designing activities and implementing them in an effective and efficient manner
- specifically elaborate proposals for the further development and enhancement of the European Knowledge Centre for Youth Policy

Scope:

The consultant(s)' evaluation shall cover the following issues:

- adequacy of applied methods and tools including the EKCYP
- modalities of implementation of activities and tools
- pertinence of the decision making procedures
- financial and administrative conditions in which the activities take place;
- follow up and visibility of activities;

In particular, the study should address the following questions:

- are the aims and objectives realistic and relevant? are they being achieved?
- are the methods and tools used functional in view of the objectives to be achieved? how could they be improved or complemented by other tools?
- does the quality of the activities' outcomes contribute to the overall objectives of the Partnership?
- is the follow-up visible and consistent with the rationale and aims?
- is the preparation process adequate?
- how can the EKCYP be further developed and which role(s) should it play in providing relevant and updated information on youth in Europe

Sources of information/evaluation methods:

The evaluation will be based on the following:

- available reports, evaluation forms and publications including information provided in the EKCYP
- informal feedback from participants and Council of Europe / European Commission staff;
- targeted interviews with staff members and stakeholders of the Partnership youth research strand (EC and CoE staff members, members of the CoE statutory bodies, European Youth Forum, members of the EKCYP- and Youth researcher's network, members of the relevant Partnership Sectorial Group, former participants of research seminars and policy workshops)
- participation in the Partnership Sectorial Group on a better knowledge of youth and youth policy
- an-online survey (if appropriate)

Timeline

The task should be organised according to this provisional timeline:

#	Task	Deadline
1	Sending in offers	31 st August
2	Decision on the offer	By 5 th September
3	Beginning of the Study	12 th September
4	Kick-off meeting	betw 15 th and 19 th Sept.
4	Participating the relevant Partnership Sectorial Group	30 th September
5	Submission of the preliminary evaluation report and presentation during the researchers network meeting	13 th October
6	Submission of the final draft report	23 th October
7	Final report following feedback by the Partnership secretariat	31 st October

Outputs of the study

The results shall be presented as follows:

- in a written evaluation study report, in English;
- a summary report shall precede the detailed study; the summary shall resume the findings of the study, the evaluation methods, the process and the list of conclusions and recommendations;
- the main findings, conclusions and recommendations of the study will be summed up in a PowerPoint presentation;
- the preliminary findings should be presented at the annual meeting of the researchers network on the 13th of October in Strasbourg.

Competencies

The evaluation can be carried out by an individual consultant or by a small team.

The consultant(s) should meet the following criteria:

- have relevant experience in the fields of youth research and youth policy
- have good analytical skills;
- possess a relevant experience in the evaluation (research) of programmes/projects;
- have excellent English writing skills;
- be able to work autonomously;

Knowledge of the activities of the Partnership research strand would be an advantage.

Financial conditions

The budget foreseen for this task provides for 20 working days (expert fee 250€/day), travel costs and per diem for approximately five meetings (Strasbourg and Brussels) à 1 -2 days as well as additional costs related to office expenses.

The payment shall be made on receipt of the written evaluation, summary report and PowerPoint presentation. If necessary an advance payment can be made to provide for the travel costs.

Further information

Please address all questions to:

Philipp Boetzelen [from 18.07. to 30.07.] (e-mail: philipp.boetzelen@coe.int, tel. +33 3 90 21 5057) or

Marta Medlinska [from 18.08. to 31.08.] (email: marta.medlinska@coe.int, tel. +33 3 90 21 4916)

Submitting applications:

Expressions of interest should consist of a succinct motivation letter stating your experience relevant to the call and motivation for undertaking the study, CV(s), a provisional time plan and an estimate of costs. They should be sent by 31st August at the latest to Marta.Medlinska@coe.int and Philipp.Boetzelen@coe.int.