



# Call for Participants Summer University on Youth Information and Counselling

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*“Youth Information is and must be for all”  
from the European Youth Information Charter*

## 1. What is this all about?

The youth information and counselling (YIC) field in Europe has been developing rapidly over the past 40 years, influenced by changes in our society. **The European Youth information and Counselling Agency ERYICA** was established in 1986 to respond to a growing need for exchange and cooperation in the youth information field on European level. Since then, the network has developed and grown, always being open to new cooperation with partners from all over Europe. In an increasingly complex and interconnected world, young people are becoming more and more present in the realities of their own societies. Youth are faced with an ever-growing range of choices, when it comes to education and employment, for example. However, this freedom of choice might become an illusion for those who are not skilled enough to sift through the deluge of information available or do not have access to all sources of information in the first place. Despite the increasing availability of mobile phones, the Internet and applications for every topic and situation giving a 24/7 access to information, in a survey carried out by ERYICA, more than 70% of young respondents prefer receiving information via face-to-face communication, followed by less than 40% who prefer private search on the Internet. One fourth of young people in the sample prefer face-to-face interaction mediated via group work, and one fifth embraced social networks sites for communication. “Traditional” media (radio, TV or newspapers) seem to be negligible as sources of information among youth as less than 10% of youth prefer them. Therefore, youth information services continue to prove valuable and not-easily replaceable by simple availability of other tools, with 63% of young respondents agreeing that using youth information and counselling services has changed their life for better.



While the survey demonstrates that young people have different informational needs depending on their age and life situation (socio-professional status), interconnections between preferred media for communicating youth-targeting information led to the conclusion that gender, socio-professional status and years of experience with youth services do not significantly diversify youth.

This evidence, together with the changing socio-economical conditions in Europe and in other areas of the world, make it compulsory for youth workers to analyse and redefine their way of working, in order to comply with the constantly changing needs of young people. It has therefore appeared evident the need to initiate a partnership building process with other areas of the world, under the assumption that **youth policy is to become more and more a global matter, as young people are faced with global challenges, live in a more and more globally interconnected society and, even more importantly, have plenty of opportunities on a global scale.**

Moreover, in the age of Internet, youth information and counselling has become a more and more important topic to tackle today's challenges like the constant increase of youth unemployment and social exclusion among young people. **Now more than ever, there is the need of focusing in providing quality youth information to help young people navigate in this global society.** Therefore developing new regional and international partnerships, even merely among European organisations, is essential to pool competences and experiences from different actors, develop professionalism and further improve competences and skills of youth information workers. A joint effort is needed to streamline youth information, to increase recognition and visibility of the crucial role and impact it plays in supporting young people, and therefore the society they live in as a whole.

Starting from this believe, the Summer University will bring about not only youth information workers, trainers and facilitators but also young people, current or potential users of youth information centres to work from their first hand experience in order to create together what youth information should look like in the future in our global, regional and national realities. Along with this consideration, and the growing need of bringing these different actors together, ERYICA's initiative to organise and foster the establishment of an Africa-Europe partnership in the field of youth information was born. Within this broader framework, the Summer University on Youth Information and Counselling will be a moment to learn from current experiences in Europe and in Africa and exchange ideas for improving services to young people, for young people and with young people, analysing the specific and common information and counselling needs and resources.



## 2. Summer University on Youth Information and Counselling

From 9 African countries (Angola, Burundi, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Malawi, Sao Tome and Principe, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia) and 10 European countries (Austria, Belgium, Finland, Ireland, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Norway, Portugal, The Netherlands), **25 core partners came together to build a meeting point among young people and youth information workers from Africa and Europe.** With the collaboration of the Portuguese Institute for Youth and Sports (IPDJ) and the Portuguese Youth Council (CNJ), ERYICA is coordinating the preparation of the Summer University that will involve not only the 25 core partners but also other **ERYICA members**, youth information organisations and networks, such as the European Youth Card Association (**EYCA**) and **Eurodesk**.

**Venue:** Portugal

**Date:** 14 – 19 June 2013, including arrival and departure dates

**Working Language:** English

**Size of the activity:** up to 120 youth information workers and young people

Through the Summer University, ERYICA and the partners aim to support the development of youth policy in Europe and in partners' countries by leveraging on quality youth information and counselling. Furthermore, we wish to gather data and evidence on the situation of YIC in partners' countries and to include it in the final report, for dissemination and understanding among the SUYIC participants and among other partners and stakeholders.

The Summer University aims to:

- Analyse and present youth information as provided in Europe and in Africa;
- Improve the provision of youth information in Europe and in Africa;
- Exchange good practice in the field of youth information in a global perspective;
- Foster the creation or the enhancement of development plans and Euro-African partnerships in the field of youth information and counselling;
- Improve the capacity of youth workers and organizations to increase young people's employability, health, mobility and reduce youth poverty on a global scale.

The Summer University will consist of a number of non-formal education activities, expert presentations on youth information, group work on regional perspectives, training modules, networking activities and feedback sessions. All these activities will have in sight the drafting of development plans and partnerships, making the event the first step of a comprehensive development process among partner. The participants will have the chance to gain

experience of African and European projects, to discover common links and common interests, **making the Summer University a push to move forward and bring forth the European model in information to a global perspective, by learning from others' practice.**

### 3. General Programme

During the Summer University, each day will have a specific objective:

**DAY 1:** Gain an overview of the situation of YIC, current trends, developments and main challenges

**DAY 2:** Deepen understanding of how YIC supports the achievement of the main objectives of youth policies

**DAY 3:** Understand the importance of proving that YIC positively impacts a young person's life, in order to further develop YIC work and reflect on how to measure impact in political-economic terms

**DAY 4:** Develop development plans on the improvement of provision and recognition of YIC in the participants' countries

TIME	Day 1 Saturday, 14 June	Day 2 Sunday, 15 June	Day 3 Monday, 16 June	Day 4 Tuesday, 17 June	Day 5 Wednesday, 18 June	Day 6 Thursday, 19 June
9:30		Welcome and opening of the Summer University  Getting to know each other	Plenary How Youth Information supports: - social inclusion - active citizenship - growth of young person - mobility - employability - participation of young people - Reproductive Health - Youth Information Charter	Plenary How can we prove the impact of YI? - The role of monitoring and evaluation - The role of evidence and added value - What young people get from YI work	Plenary Where are we going to? And how are we going to get there?  1. Group meetings 2. Setting up of development plans	Departures
11:00	Coffee break					
11:30		Plenary Youth Information (YI) regional perspectives	Workshops – deepening the reflection and discussions	Workshops – deepening the reflection and discussions	3. Groups finalise the development plans	
13:30	LUNCH					
15:00	ARRIVALS	Afternoon Workshops Part 1	Afternoon Workshops Part 1	Afternoon Workshops Part 1	Partnership development	
17:00	Coffee break					
17:30		Part 2	Part 2	Part 2	Evaluation and Closing of the Summer University	
19:00	DINNER					
	Interactive welcome evening	Fair of YI practices	Fair of YI: thematic approach	Creation of partnerships in the field of youth information	Farewell Party	

To reach these aims, the SUYIC will be divided into different moments: joint plenaries in the mornings and workshops in the afternoon. In the morning, the topic of the day will be presented and discussed with inputs from keynote speakers, experts and the participants' experience. In the afternoon, participants will choose to which workshop they wish to take part according to their interest and field of work.



Each afternoon there will be 4-6 parallel workshops of 3,5 hours:

- going more in depth on the topic presented in the morning plenary;
- exploring Africa-Europe cooperation in the field;
- supporting young people coming from Africa and Europe in the use and production of media tools. The participation in this workshop will imply the continuous presence during the 3 afternoon of a close number of young people, selected before the start of the SUYIC;
- working on various thematic sessions (e.g. quality of YIC, mobility, the role of the YIC worker, recognition of YIC work, role of YIC in supporting employability of young people, YIC workers equipped for intercultural dialogue, how to “sell” YIC work, peer-to-peer approach, gamification of YIC, self-assessment tool for YIC, role and impact of YIC on national youth policies, digital world and e-participation, access to rights for young people, funding YIC projects);
- visiting a local youth information centre.

Thanks to the Portuguese partners (Movijovem and the Portuguese Institute for Youth and Sport), there will be the possibility for participants to take part in side-events and further cultural and touristic visits in the location surrounding the venue and in Portugal as a whole. At a later stage, ad-hoc packages will be offered by Movijovem, to give more possibility of exploring more in depth the cultural, historical and natural reality of the country.

#### **4. Criteria for participation**

According to the various activities taking place during the Summer University, participants with different profiles are invited to apply. All participants will jointly take part in the morning’s plenary sessions and then they will split for the afternoon workshops.

SUYIC participants will be

- Youth information workers and youth workers involved in youth information provision
- Young people from Africa and Europe, users of youth information centres and services (18 – 26 years old)
- Representatives of national youth councils, involved in youth information provision
- Representatives of other partner organisations (e.g. EYCA, Eurodesk, IPDJ)
- Representatives of other relevant European Networks.

All partner organizations will have the responsibility to pre-select the respective participants, based on these following criteria, which aim at assuring a geographical balance and a fair gender distribution. Moreover, all participants need to be able to use the English language in a working environment. The final decision on the composition of the group of



participants, as well as of the waiting list, will be on the Steering Group, representative of the partnership. Important criteria for participants' selection are:

- motivation for participating in this Summer university
- competences in the field of youth information
- experience in non-formal education
- openness to networking and intercultural communication.
- potential in multiplying effect

**Apply to the Summer University through a partner organisation or directly to ERYICA if you are a:**

- Youth worker, (including representatives from the National Youth Councils) active in the field of youth information and counselling, interested in enhancing your work and your competences and in sharing your experience with youth information workers and youth information providers from Africa and Europe;
- Young person from Africa and Europe (including Young Ambassador of ERYICA), current or potential users of youth information centres interested in sharing your experience with colleagues and peers from all over Europe and Africa and who can act as a strong multiplier when going back home after this experience;

In the programme, there will be different moments to cover topics of interest of all target groups.

Each day, the plenary session will be open to all participants to focus on a specific topic with the inputs and supports of key speakers and experts. The morning workshop will continue focusing on the plenary topic. The afternoon workshops will cover a broad range of topics and will be open for participants to choose according to their interest and field of work.

## **5. You, as SUYIC participant**

With continuous support from ERYICA and the project partners, as SUYIC participants, you will be able to contribute to the SUYIC in many different ways: before the University, during and after. The SUYIC wants to be a meeting space of people who together want to contribute to improve the provision of youth information and counselling in Europe and in Africa. To accomplish this aim, you will:

- stay actively involved during the whole duration of the project;
- share information with the other participants on the situation of youth information and counselling in your country ;
- participate for the whole duration in the University (14-19 June 2014);
- identify the topic on which you want to work in the afternoon;
- participate in the evaluation and follow up of the project;



Our joint effort will aim at creating development plans. More precisely, you will reflect before, during and after the SUYIC on how the participation in the Summer University can improve the development of youth information in your countries, at local, national and regional level in partnership with other organisations. You will be asked to work in a team with other participants to jointly shape a development plan for the improvement of provision and recognition of youth information. The results of this exercise will be shared with all the participants and with ERYICA by 15 July 2014 (through the sheryica.org platform).

## 6. Participation Fee

The final participation fee will be communicated at the moment of the selection. However, ERYICA and the project partners commit to reduce any participation fee as much as possible, keeping it within the **maximum of 390 euro per person**. Travel costs will be fully covered by the project partners or by their organisations of reference.

A small number of full or partial scholarships provided by the Council of Europe or other organisation will be available for a selected number of participants.

## 7. Apply to the Summer University!

Sign in/register in ERYICA's platform, sheryica.org

Fill in the online application form on sheryica.org by 30 January 2014

ERYICA and the Project Partners will select applicants and communicate the results.

## 8. Timeline:

30 January 2014: FILL IN THE [ONLINE APPLICATION FORM ON sheryica.org](http://sheryica.org)

15 February 2014: Results of the Selection will be communicated

1 March to 1 June 2014: Preparation phase for the Summer University to develop how to effectively participate in the SUYIC and to prepare on how to develop YIC in your country and region

**14-19 June 2014: Come to Portugal and Enjoy the Summer University**

15 July 2014: Share the evaluation and the development plans to ERYICA

For more information

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