PARTIAL AGREEMENT ON YOUTH MOBILITY
THROUGH THE YOUTH CARD

Information document
prepared by the Directorate of Youth and Sport
What is the Partial Agreement on Youth Mobility through the Youth Card?

The Partial Agreement was created in 1991. The statute of the Partial Agreement states:

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

Board of Coordination

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

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

Programme of activities

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

The following three key activities work towards achieving the aims of the Partial Agreement and consequently create an added value for the Council of Europe’s youth sector:

1. Youth mobility projects
2. Participation and intercultural learning projects
3. Quality development and support measures

The rational for this structure is as follows: Youth mobility projects serve the primary aim of the Partial Agreement - facilitating the mobility of young people. Youth mobility is seen as an instrument to stimulate personal and cultural development, contributing to the participation and non-formal education of young people. Youth participation is also fostered through information, a prerequisite for participation, and special participation and intercultural learning projects organised within the Partial Agreement. These projects include youth research which also contributes to youth policy development. Quality development and support measures are aimed at the overall development of the programme of the Partial Agreement and its activities at high quality.

Together the activities secure a coherent programme that seeks to answer the needs of young people across Europe, and that is based on the wishes and needs of the Council of Europe, representatives of the European Youth Card Association (EYCA) and of governmental representatives.

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

Through the promotion of youth mobility in Europe, the Partial Agreement and its Member States contribute directly to the core values and objectives of the Council of Europe’s youth sector, such as international and intercultural understanding, diversity and the fight against racism and intolerance.
Being a member of the Partial Agreement provides an ideal political tool for promoting youth mobility, in particular by backing EURO<26 youth card organisations in their countries in negotiating advantages and discounts for young people (e.g. discounts on transport, accommodation, language courses, theatres, cinemas, festivals, museums etc.).

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

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

- Preference is given to Partial Agreement members in the selection of EYCAdemy participants, a scientific qualitative Youth Research using the methodology of focus groups. This half a million Euro project is partially supported by the Partial Agreement and would enable new Partial Agreement countries to join the project with all travel and accommodation expenses being covered. EYCAdemy works with international and national focus groups and builds up a network of scientific trainers. In the first two years one could envisage that a new PA country would have a network of educated trainers (around 30) that could directly affect several hundreds of their young citizens' lives with their participation in National Focus Groups within 2 more years. Furthermore the result of the research could be commercialised and serve as an additional income source.

- The Bureau of the Partial Agreement has decided to reserve a specific part of the budget to newly joining partial agreement members. This budget could be allocated, for example, to special Web-projects (support in website-development) that would again affect millions of young citizens and boost the development of the countries’ Youth Card organisation(s). Partial Agreement members also receive various publications and marketing material at no cost, whereas non-Partial Agreement members have to buy such material.

- Through participation in activities of the Partial Agreement supported EYCA Communications Group, Partial Agreement members especially profit in the development and strengthening of efficient online and offline youth communication channels like EURO<26 magazines, guidebooks, websites, newsletters etc. Those communication channels are an important tool to support national youth policy as well as European and international cross media youth campaigns - at the moment, more than 4.1 million youth cardholders in 37 countries can be reached directly by EURO<26 youth card media.

- Furthermore the benefits mentioned above are not just to be looked at in terms of figures but they would enable new countries to participate in the Exchange programme to visit other EURO<26 organisations to study their programme for a week. They would have the opportunity to study their discount development, their fundraising programme etc. Such study visits have often made savings of thousands of Euros to a Youth Card organisation because it helps prevent making expensive mistakes. Many Youth Card organisations have been kick-started by these exchange programmes.
**Procedure for joining the Partial Agreement**

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

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

**Current member States of the Partial Agreement on the Youth Card**

Andorra, Austria, Azerbaijan, Croatia, Cyprus, Finland, Hungary, Ireland, Luxembourg, Malta, Montenegro, The Netherlands, Portugal, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and Switzerland.

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