

Partial Agreement Seminar Walk the Talk 4-7 July 2023 Luxembourg

Seminar of the Partial Agreement on Youth Mobility through the Youth
Card and the European Youth Card Association,
in cooperation with the
Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes (EPA)

REPORT

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1.1 Setting the scene

The context of the seminar

The “Walk the Talk” 50/50 seminar was organised on 4-7 July 2023 in Luxembourg in the framework of the 2023 programme of activities of the Partial Agreement on Youth Mobility through the Youth Card. It offered its participants an innovative interactive format, where guests would be walking along a few selected Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe crossing Luxembourg accompanied by experts and simultaneously learning and exchanging about youth mobility, youth card and cultural heritage, and – what was most important – exchanging on how to create synergies among the different policy and programme areas.

The event was organised in the framework of the Partial Agreement on Youth Mobility through the Youth Card, by the Council of Europe, the European Youth Card Association (EYCA) and the National Information Agency for Youth of Luxembourg (ANIJ), in cooperation with the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe (EPA).

The objectives of the seminar

The main objectives of the seminar were the following:

- 1) promoting the European Youth Card (EYC) as a tool for connecting young people with the cultural offers of the Council of Europe member states;
- 2) opening EYCA members to the cultural/heritage possibilities, including, as an example, the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe that go through a Council of Europe member state and encouraging them to negotiate special offers for the European Youth Card holders;
- 3) providing networking opportunities between the civil servants of the Partial Agreement’s member states and the European Youth Card organisations;
- 4) developing cooperation between the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Youth Mobility through the Youth Card and the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes.

1.2 Opening and welcome

Welcome

Manel Sanchez, EYCA Director

Manel Sanchez introduced the seminar by pointing out its innovative aspect and the collaboration with the PA on Cultural routes. He declared that the group was looking forward to walking and discovering Luxembourg cultural heritage.

He reminded participants that lots of young people were walking all year long and that the possibilities to access these Cultural Routes could facilitate the connection between young people, youth workers and cultural heritage.

Maurice Bauer, Deputy Mayor of the City of Luxembourg

Maurice Bauer expressed his warm welcome on behalf of the city of Luxembourg and his apologies for the absences of the mayor.

He explained that the words “culture”, “mobility” and “youth” were very familiar to the city of Luxembourg, one of the capitals of the European integration, a city welcoming people from more than 61 nationalities and where more than 70% of the residents are not Luxembourgers, thus highlighting its multicultural aspect, its cultural exchanges and richness. In that regard, the first university of Luxembourg was created in 2003, because beforehand it was a deliberate choice to send young people abroad to study throughout Europe, to allow them to cross the borders, discover other cultural aspects, systems and cities, bring back various influences and get used to mobility.

Maurice Bauer concluded therefore that Luxembourg represented the right place to launch a debate around these topics. He underlined that the discussions which had recently started between the youth department of the city of Luxembourg and the National Youth Information Agency should intensify in the upcoming years. Finally, he wished participants fruitful walks and talks and acknowledged it was one of the most interesting seminars he had ever seen.

Didace Kalisa, ANIJ Director

The **National Youth Information Agency (ANIJ)** is a non-profit association under an agreement with the Ministry of National Education, Children and Youth (MENJE) in Luxembourg and is fully financially supported by the Ministry. ANIJ is responsible for production, development and dissemination of reliable quality information to young people and for the management of the European Youth Card in Luxembourg.

Didace Kalisa started by introducing ANIJ. The Youth information centre was created in 1987 on the initiative of the National youth service, to provide young people with general and reliable information, attentive listening and counsel. It has evolved into ANIJ and is currently involved at several levels.

First, locally: a youth information point in the city of Luxembourg welcomes, informs, advises and guides young people in person, by email or phone, meets young people directly in high schools and participates in events. It collaborates with two other youth info points, located one in the north and the other one in the south of the country. Their role is to enable young people to find answers, to direct them to the appropriate services and to help them become more autonomous in the fields of studies, employment, housing, health and civic involvement, among others. ANIJ coordinates a youth information network and delivers a label to structures that provide some specific information to young people – for instance housing – but which are not entirely dedicated to youth information. ANIJ also produces information in a variety of digital formats, creates content disseminated on its website and social media, offers specific services and carries out concrete projects in favour of young people, for instance the well-being and mental health project which is currently run, including podcasts, short videos, workshops, etc.

At national level, ANIJ works with institutions from the formal and non-formal sectors. At European level, it works with EYCA, ERIYCA (the European Youth Information and Counselling Agency) and Eurodesk (a European youth information network), producing joint publications, organising training courses and seminars.

He added that the collaboration with EYCA consisted in developing the European Youth Card and raising young people’s awareness on civic commitment. In this context, ANIJ has recruited two young change makers who will travel in Italy to raise awareness among their peers on the European elections to be held next year. Didace Kalisa underlined the importance of working in synergy both internally and with external partners.

Miguel Perestrello, EYCA President

Through a video message, Miguel Perestrello addressed a few words to the audience, expressing his gratitude to the Council of Europe for their continuous support and trust in EYCA to implement the Partial Agreement on youth mobility, to ANIJ for their commitment and to their partners from the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes for their efforts in bringing culture closer to young people closer and their vital collaboration.

Miguel Perestrello underlined the particular importance of this topic, declaring that cultural elements were an integral part of our shared identity and history. He reminded participants that EYCA was a network supporting the mobility of young people as a way to enlarge their horizons and encourage active participation, offering opportunities and services to connect them with Europe's cultural heritage. He acknowledged that, while the European Youth Card was already providing a wide range of cultural offerings, such as access to museums, historical sites and visual arts, there was still room to explore other opportunities and therefore expressed EYCA's eagerness to embark on this particular journey.

Natalja Turenne, Youth Policy Advisor, Council of Europe

Natalja Turenne explained that through this pilot project, in collaboration with the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes, the Youth policy division was hoping to develop a model that could be used by other cultural routes or states, in order to contribute to a common Europe.

She underlined that the 4th Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe which had recently taken place in Reykjavík, Iceland (16-17 May 2023) had made a case for youth participation and involvement in all activities of the Council of Europe.

Natalja Turenne declared that Luxembourg had been chosen to host this seminar because it was both a member of EYCA and one of the initiators of the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes. She highlighted that the Council of Europe wanted to bring Cultural Routes closer to young people, notably thanks to the European Youth Card.

1.3 Presentations of the Partial Agreement on Youth Mobility and the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe

EYCA and the Partial Agreement on Youth Mobility through the Youth Card – Natalja Turenne – Youth Policy Advisor, Council of Europe and Manel Sanchez – EYCA Director

The Enlarged Partial Agreement on Youth Mobility through the Youth Card exists since 1991 and is a programme of the Council of Europe aimed at developing the youth card scheme, particularly at European level, in the best interests of young people with a view to facilitating their mobility as well as access to the various goods and services necessary for their personal and cultural development. The number of members currently amount to 23. In the framework of the Partial Agreement, seminars, webinars and workshops are being organised and contribute to the development of various aspects of youth policies through the European Youth Card as part of intergovernmental co-operation of member states. Member States have the choice to join or not the programme, which is open to countries from other continents.

According to the answers to a questionnaire recently submitted to the members of this Partnership Agreement, the added values of this programme are notably: giving a European dimension to national youth policies, being part of the European community of 8.2 million card users, being kept updated with youth policy issues and networking.

Created at the end of the 1990's, originally called "Euro 26 card", the **European Youth Card Association (EYCA)** is a non-profit organisation bringing together 38 youth card organisations all over Europe and is the Partial Agreement's statutory partner.

EYCA's vision is a Europe where all young people are mobile and active (socially, culturally, educationally and economically). EYCA's mission consists indeed in delivering quality youth card services and in contributing to a better policy on youth mobility and active citizenship: to become a member, an organisation needs to show a balance between these two missions.

Today, over 7 million cardholders benefit from youth card opportunities.

Created in 2018, the EYCA Youth panel is an advisory body that helps the EYCA board identify the priorities, interests and concerns of young Europeans and design EYC programmes and services. It comprises 10 members, 2 of whom were participating in the Walk the Talk seminar.

The Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe – Stefano Dominioni – Executive Secretary of the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes

Stefano Dominioni declared that this seminar represented a way to bring together some of the most innovative initiatives of the Council of Europe in the fields of youth, mobility, dialogue and heritage and an opportunity for the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes and the Partial Agreement on Youth Mobility through the Youth Card to develop closer cooperation and explore jointly areas of cooperation.

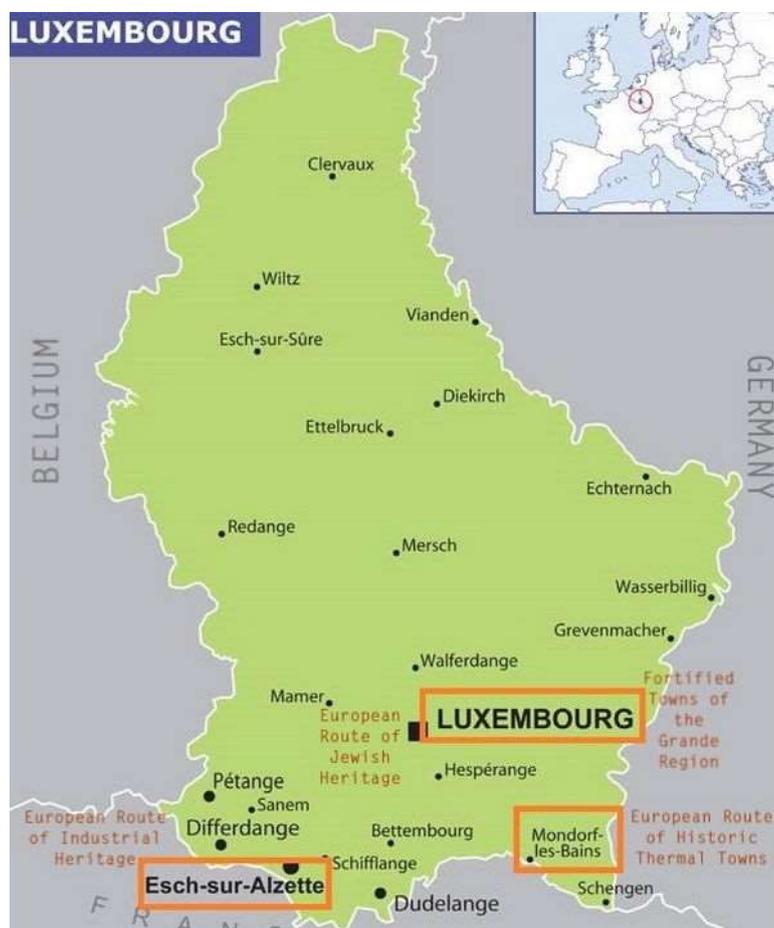
The **Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes (EPA)** – open to member and non member states of the Council of Europe – was established in 2010 by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe in order to reinforce the potential of the Cultural Routes for cultural cooperation, sustainable territorial development and social cohesion. A Cultural Route is defined by the Council of Europe as "a cultural, educational heritage and tourism co-operation project aiming at the development and promotion of an itinerary or a series of itineraries based on a historic route, a cultural concept, figure or phenomenon with a transnational importance and significance for the understanding and respect of common European values". The EPA aims to contribute to strengthen the democratic dimension of cultural exchange and tourism and to preserve a diverse heritage.

There are currently 47 certified itinerary networks, covering a range of different themes, from architecture and landscape to religious influences, from gastronomy and intangible heritage to the major figures of European art, music and literature. Routes are connected to activities in the fields of research, sustainable tourism, youth exchanges, etc. The certification is based on a bottom-up approach, by promoting initiatives from the civil society, after they have been rigorously evaluated. This label guarantees the values of the route.

The European Institute of Cultural Routes was established in 1998, through an agreement between the Council of Europe and the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg to serve as a Council of Europe technical and specialised agency for the promotion of the Cultural Routes. It is involved in monitoring and evaluating Cultural Routes, and also advises the projects and the certified itineraries.

Stefano Dominioni said that participants would experience a sample of 4 Cultural Routes crossing Luxembourg – the European Route of Jewish Heritage, the European Route of Industrial Heritage, the Fortified Towns of the Grande Region and the European Route of Historic Thermal Towns – and expressed his eagerness to hear participants' feedback and ideas on how to implement and develop this concept in the future.

After this round of presentations about the context and concept of the seminar, participants got to know each other and shared their expectations: developing cooperation with the European Institute of Cultural Routes, for the benefit of young people; creating a stable model to bring youth cards and cultural routes together to promote cultural heritage, European identity and respect for environment.



Source: <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/>

1.4 Cultural Route 1 – European Route of Jewish Heritage, Luxembourg City

The group was led by François Moysé, Chairman of the European Route of Jewish Heritage in Luxembourg city. François Moysé guided participants through the centre to discover the Jewish (lack of) presence starting from the monument commemorating the Holocaust, and moving on to the administrative and governmental district, where a plaque was indicating the location of a former synagogue, turned into a governmental building. While walking in the streets, he explained how an open day to Jewish heritage sites in Alsace had been the starting point of this Cultural Route. He gave the group an overview of the history of Jewish communities in Europe and particularly in Luxembourg.

François Moysé then directed the group to the commercial heart of the city, where a number of shops had belonged to renowned Jewish families, influencing the sector not only in Luxembourg but also in neighbouring countries.

1.5 Cultural Route 2 – European Route of Industrial Heritage, Belval region

The group was driven to Fond-de-Gras, where Robyn Wehles guided them through Minett Park, an open-air museum and one of the most important mining centres in Luxembourg. On this site, several historical buildings had been preserved: an electric power station, an old grocery store, a rolling mill train, a railway station and railway sheds.

After the closure of the last mine in 1964, thanks to the efforts of volunteers, part of a “Mining Line” was preserved and the train that had been operational since 1874 to transport the iron ore extracted from neighbouring mines was turned into a touristic train in 1973.



The participants took that “1900 Train” from Fond-de-Gras to Pétange and were then driven to the Belval area. There, they discovered cultural facilities built in the framework of Esch2022 European Capital of Culture: the Belval source Pavilions. They toured the Belval site of Luxembourg university, which has integrated the industrial heritage into modern architecture, the library being a striking example of this approach. The tour ended in Madame Witzeg restaurant in Belvaux, a restaurant employing people with Down Syndrome and promoting local products and therefore chosen by ANIJ for its social dimension and impact.

1.6 Panel discussion on European Capital of Culture and youth mobility

A panel discussion on European Capital of Culture and youth mobility took place during coffee break at Mme Witzeg restaurant.

The panel included:

- Jacques Maquet – Quality and Impact Research Coordinator at Esch2022 (European Capital of Culture)
- Hailey Ciantar and Nikitas Papadopoulos – Members of EYCA Youth Panel

The panelists were first asked what were, according to them, the most important and relevant elements of culture for young people.

Nikitas Papadopoulos declared that it depended on young people, and especially where they were from. Nevertheless, he mentioned a few common elements such as sport, music and the accessibility of culture. For her part, Hailey Cianciar explained that, when she was thinking of culture, she was thinking of history and the past, archaeological sites, museums and galleries but acknowledged that culture was more than that and suggested pop culture as a relevant element.

Jacques Maquet regretted the lack of studies on cultural practices of young people. He said it was hard to answer that question because these practices were constantly evolving. Yet, he said that for Esch2022, it was the music festivals that had most attracted young people. He also pointed out the main obstacles to youth access to culture: the lack of information, their lack of interest, the distance from their home to cultural events/sites, the lack of cultural offerings, as well as young people's budget. In that regard, he underlined that in the context of Esch2022, many free events had been organised.

A participant asked which incentives could contribute to young people taking more part in cultural activities, apart from festivals. She insisted on the idea that information on cultural offering did not automatically bring motivation from young people.

Hailey Cianciar replied there was lots of interest from the youth but outlined that, as a generation, they had grown up with everything being fast, easy and ready, while, to discover these routes, some research was needed. She concluded that, if all was planned out for each itinerary – transport, housing, etc. – more young people would be interested. It was objected that, in the contrary, some young persons would prefer adventure and discovering the routes by themselves.

Nikitas Papadopoulos underlined that, to draw young people's attention, they should further promote the Cultural Routes through the Erasmus+ programme and consider posting videos on social media such as Instagram and Tik Tok. Jacques Maquet testified that a large part of Esch2022 had been digital. He added that they had monitored social media for Esch2022 with the support of social media marketers and they had concluded that it was hard to attract the youth because of the multiplicity of channels. Indeed, in Luxembourg, communication has to be done in 3 to 5 languages in each media.

Then, a participant brought out the fact that young people were often considered as consumers, while they also were art producers and culture "prosumers". Therefore, she suggested to collaborate with young people, as partners, and to give young artists more visibility, in order to make cultural routes more appealing and inspire other young people.

Jacques Maquet certified that one of the keys of young people's involvement in cultural activities was their participation from a very early age. In that regard, Esch2022 had developed workshops for the youth. Indeed, this district was an industrial area, with a number of social issues. One of the aims of the European Capital of Culture was therefore to diversify the offers, notably through the development of cultural workshops toward young people, by involving local authorities and schools.

2.1 Cultural Route 3 – Fortified Towns of the Grande Region, Luxembourg City



The “Grande Region” corresponds to the region between France, Germany, Belgium and Luxembourg that has long been a place of military struggle and thus is characterised by fortresses dating from the Middle Ages to the 20th century.

Conducted by Roy Hoss, a young Luxembourg guide, the group learned about the historical and cultural aspects of the fortifications of what is also known as the “Gibraltar of the north”. They learned more about Vauban’s architectural influence and discovered several sites such as casemates, Cercle Cité and the Neumünster Abbey hosting, among others, the European Institute of Cultural Routes.



2.2 Cultural Route 4 – European Route of Historic Thermal Towns, Mondorf-les-Bains

The group was driven to the thermal town of Mondorf-les-Bains, situated close to the symbolic city of Schengen. They first had some discussions in groups about the European Youth Card and the Cultural Routes (the results of these discussions are presented in the next section of the report). Then, guided by Daisy Eischen, a local guide, they discovered several emblematic buildings of the city, their history, as well as some famous guests they had hosted. Participants also entered a spa to taste the thermal water and walked through the park of the *Domaine thermal*.



2.3 Closing session

During the afternoon, participants had reflected on the following question: “How can the European Youth Card and the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe contribute to public policy in the fields of youth, culture, heritage and intercultural living?”, as well as creative and innovative ways through which the European Youth Card and the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe could be promoted with the aim of having a stronger social and political impact. They came up with a series of proposals.

They said that the routes should contribute to encourage young people to reflect on culture as a journey of European multicultural influences in history. This would imply the reinforcement of cross-sectoral coordination between ministries, to enhance the impact of these routes on young people. In that regard, some participants brought out the need for a bottom-up approach, notably by creating projects encouraging young people to discover the routes together with youth workers. The treasure hunt was mentioned as a non-formal tool to contribute to the promotion of the cultural routes. Other participants also suggested to create exchange programmes between cities sharing similar historical topics.

Participants also recommended to increase the visibility and accessibility of these routes, notably by including landmarks. Furthermore, a checklist including maps, places to visit, cultural sites as well as discounts and benefits available to EYC holders should be promoted along the routes. They suggested that some additional discounts could be provided to young people after they would have covered significant distances. Toolkits could also be created for youth organisations and groups, to help them promote different narratives, guided reflection and personal growth along the way. Additionally, a week dedicated to encourage participation on these routes could be launched. Finally, participants underlined the need to create spaces and groups to share information, stories and experiences, particularly through social media.

Finally, some participants made a case for the creation of a working group coordinated by EYCA, in order to explore more in-depth this series of proposals.

Following these two days, and before closing the seminar, the organisers expressed some final thoughts and thanked everyone for their involvement and participation.

Appendices

Annex 1 – Programme

DAY 0 | Tuesday 4th July

Starting 20.00 Arrival of participants and Dinner in Mélia Hotel

DAY 1 | Wednesday 5th July

Welcome

- 09.00 – 09.45
- Manel Sanchez – EYCA Director
 - Maurice Bauer – Deputy Mayor of the City of Luxembourg
 - Didace Kalisa – ANIJ Director
 - Miguel Perestrello – EYCA President
 - Natalja Turenne – Council of Europe, Partial Agreement on Youth Mobility

Aim and objectives of this event

- 09.45 – 10.15
- mapping the audience
 - expectations

Presentation of the Partial Agreement on Youth Mobility

Natalja Turenne – Youth Policy Advisor, Council of Europe

Manel Sanchez – EYCA Director

10.15 - 10.45 *Presentation of the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe*

Stefano Dominiononi – Executive Secretary of the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes

Divide the group for discussions on the route

10.45 - 11.00 Coffee break in Mélia Hotel

11.00 – 12.30 **Cultural Route 1 – European Route of Jewish Heritage, Luxembourg City**
By François Moyse, Chairman of the European Route of Jewish Heritage

12.30 – 13.30 Lunch in Mélia Hotel

13.30–14.00 (*bus*) **Cultural Route 2 – European Route of Industrial Heritage, Belval region**

14.00 – 18.30	Panel discussion on European Capital of Culture and youth mobility (during coffee break at Mme Witzeg restaurant)
	Mr. Jacques Maquet – Quality and Impact Research Coordinator at Esch22 Youth Panelists – EYCA
18.45 – 21.00	Festive dinner at the social inclusion restaurant “Mme Witzeg”
21.00 - 22.30	Return to the Hotel Mélia

DAY 2 | Thursday 6th July

Until 09.00	Breakfast in Hotel Mélia
09.00 – 11.30	Cultural Route 3 – Fortified Towns of the Grande Region , Luxembourg City Roy Hoss, Luxembourg Guide
11.30 – 12.00	Getting back to the hotel
12.00 – 13.00	Lunch Hotel Mélia
13.00 – 14.30	Transportation to Mondorf Les Bains
14.30 – 17.00	Cultural Route 4 – European Route of Historic Thermal Towns Daisy Eischen - Guide <i>with coffee break in the Domaine Thermal</i>
17.00 – 18.00	Return to Luxembourg City
18.00 – 19.30	Closing session
20.00 – 22.00	Diner “La Brasserie du Cercle”, Luxembourg City

DAY 3 | Friday 7th July

Until 09.30	Breakfast at Mélia Hotel
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Departures

Appendix 2 – List of participants

Name and Surname	Institution	Country
Niya Boyanova	NYCA	Bulgaria
Lily Elenkova	NYCA	Bulgaria
Nikitas Papadopoulos	EYCA Youth Panel	Greece
Maria C. Borg	Agenzija Zghazagh	Malta
Natalija Bošković	NGO Center for Youth education / Project Manager	Montenegro
Hailey Ciantar	EYCA Youth Panel	Netherlands/ Malta
Maria Almeida	Movijovem	Portugal
Bogdan Paraschiv	Ministry of Family, Youth and Equal opportunities	Romania
Lucian Vulpoiu	Ministry of Family, Youth and Equal opportunities	Romania
Nassim Djaba	EYCA Board Member	Slovenia
Antía Loureiro	INJUVE	Spain
Natalja Turenne	Council of Europe	France
Florence Murlon	Rapporteur	France
Louis Debono	Facilitator	Malta
Corina Pirvulescu	EYCA	Belgium
Manel Sanchez	EYCA	Belgium
Marilda Kotsoni	EYCA	Belgium
Marie-Ange Neu	ANIJ	Luxembourg
Didace Kalisa	ANIJ	Luxembourg