

The Bonn Process is gaining momentum Strengthening and developing youth work together with the European Youth Work Agenda

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Abstract

The European Youth Work Agenda is a Europe-wide strategic framework for strengthening and developing youth work, anchored in the youth policy strategies of the Council of Europe and the European Union and implemented in a multi-year process, the Bonn Process. Fortunately, the Bonn Process is becoming more and more a living process that involves or initiates developments from the local to the European level in many European countries. This article offers insights into the implementation of the Bonn Process in Europe and Germany and gives examples of how the themes of the Bonn Process are already being put into practice. Concrete initiatives range from the development of a Europe-wide digital platform for youth work by the European Commission to local measures, for example on inclusive and diversity-oriented youth work or capacity building towards a more digitalised or sustainable practice. An important role is also played by national processes, in which Member States, for example, set thematic priorities, develop strategies or implement specialised events and training programmes. Finally, ways are shown how this commitment can be further expanded and taken up even more broadly by the entire youth work community of practice. Last but not least, recommendations are made on how the process should be further developed by anchoring it more firmly in political strategies and funding programmes, so that by the next European Youth Work Convention in 2025 and beyond, it will indeed become a vibrant and effective community process that strengthens and advances youth work throughout Europe.

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