

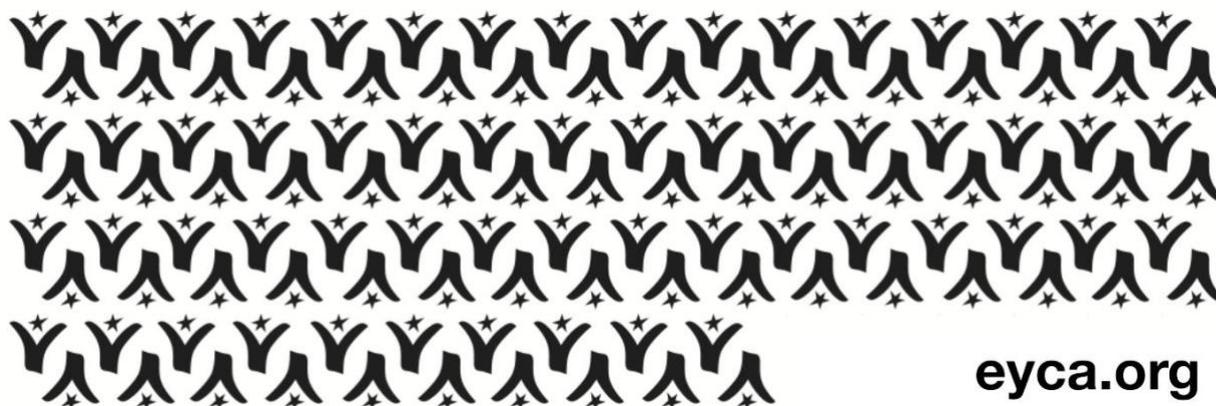
Study visit for civil servants and EYCA organisations on youth policy: *‘Strengthening capacities for governmental youth agendas using EYC as a tool: the case of Portugal’*

3 – 5 April 2023

Evora and Lisbon, Portugal

Seminar of the Partial Agreement on Youth Mobility through the Youth Card
and the European Youth Card Association (EYCA)

REPORT



Introduction

The study visit “Strengthening capacities for governmental youth agendas using the EYC: the case of Portugal” was part of the Partial Agreement’s work programme 2023 and the result of the efforts to broaden the Partial Agreement’s offer of activities following surveys conducted among its member- and non-member states in 2020-2021.

The study visit was mainly intended for governmental representatives from the Partial Agreement member states combined with an active participation of EYCA member organisations. *This event will be in line with Priority no. 5 of the Council of Europe youth sector’s priorities 2022-2025 “Intergovernmental cooperation on youth policy” and contribute to the expected result: “Member States have increased their capacity to develop youth policies promoting Council of Europe standards.”*

The event was generously hosted by Movijovem, Portugal, and proved to be an opportunity for the participants to learn first-hand from the good practices on youth policy development, programme implementation and efficient management of the European Youth Card by one of the most successful youth card organisations in Europe.

About the organisers

The 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 European Youth Card Association (EYCA) groups around 36 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 to reach this objective consists in delivering quality youth card services and in contributing to a better policy on youth mobility and active citizenship. Today, over six million youth cardholders benefit from youth card opportunities.

Movijovem is EYCA’s member organisation in Portugal and a semi-governmental body which manages most of the Youth Hostels (Posadas) in the country. Movijovem’s mission is to support youth mobility and tourism in a sustainable, inclusive and universal way.

DAY 1 of the event

The event is open by the representatives of organisers, as it follows:

Mr. Miguel Perestrello – President of Movijovem Board welcomes everyone in Evora, a UNESCO protected city. He also gives a short overview of the agenda and highlights of the good practices shared today by movijovem

Ms. Natalja Turenne – welcomes everyone on behalf of the Council of Europe, in particular the representatives of the two new Member States of PA Youth Mobility: Romania and Bulgaria. She mentioned is the first time we have a support visit format as part of the Partial Agreement events. She extends her thanks to Movijovem for their hospitality and efforts to organize this event.

Mr. Manel Sanchez – EYCA Director welcomes everyone and gives tribute to Movijovem and the importance of being outside of the capital, as this is in line with EYC values of reaching young people in remote and rural areas. He explains why Movijovem was selected as example of good practice, as they develop many strategic elements of the European Youth Card.

The programme continues with introduction of participants. There is a variety of profiles:

- EYCA member representatives
- Governmental and Ministerial representatives
- Youth mobility organisations
- Staff who works with the European Youth Card
- University and research institutions in the filed of youth
- Countries represented: Austria, Bulgaria, Armenia, Greece, Slovenia, Croatia, Romania, Republic of Moldova, Cyprus, Bulgaria, Luxembourg, Slovakia, Netherlands.

The agenda follows with different presentations from Portugal, from various stakeholders working with EYC infrastructure. The goal is for participants to understand how EYC can be integrated into a complex ecosystem and connect with policy and programmes in various themes, from urban mobility, to culture and civic participation.

The first presentation is from MOVIJOVEM and is delivered by the Marketing Director. The presentation can be found in the link presented at the end of this report.

Highlights:

- The organisation was created in the '90s by the Portuguese Government
- Public body in the form of cooperative whose members are: Portuguese Govt via the Youth Institute, National Youth Council and the Federation of Youth Associations
- They deliver a variety of services to young people: accommodation by managing youth hostels, EYC and other mobility services (Intra-rail passes, municipality cards)
- Vision: reference institution which makes youth mobility possible.
- Movijovem manages 42 youth hostels in mainland Portugal
- Biodegradable plastic and digital services – sustainability

- They are building communities of cardholders at festivals, in camping areas, in hostels.
- They developed social emergency accommodation services, refugees from Ukraine and migrants from Timor Leste. Most of them are very young people.
- One of their newest initiatives is related to student housing: Movijovem is part of the solution, they offer housing to students at affordable prices and they are part of the National plan of Accommodation.
- Movijovem links also with other institutions, such as the High Commission for Refugees or Ministry of Employment, to ensure they extend services of social integration. Of course, they coordinate with other youth organization, such as the National Youth Council.
- They never give up from the Portuguese youth, but they are willing to extend support to other young people who come to Portugal.
- All youth hostels are all public, wither owned by the IPDJ or by Movijovem. They are all managed by Movijovem.
- Only Portugal and Croatia are managing youth hostels in EYCA.
- Movijovem is not serving the Youth Council or FNAJ, but the young citizens. It's a mission of the Portuguese state, encrypted in the IPDJ. Movijovem was created as cooperative, a structure that is more flexible to serve the purpose of serving youth mobility
- Youth led structures are co-managing in the sense that they are part of the GA and oversee the work of the Board of Movijovem.
- The leadership of Movijovem reinforced the importance of being part of European initiatives, give a sense of no borders to the Portuguese youth and contribute to their empowerment as citizens of the world, make them more empathic and to give them a voice in politics.
- From a marketing perspective, they are doing what every company would like to do: build communities. But Movijovem is doing it in an authentic way. The European campaigns are contributing to it.

The next presentation was delivered by FNAJ (National Federation Youth Association). Main highlights include:

- Represent youth associations in relations with public authorities
- Promotes associative life as a way of civic engagement in community
- Since 2017 that FNAJ is a member of the Strategic Council and is the voice of youth organisations, influencing political actions that Movijovem can take in the area of youth mobility
- Pays attention to the challenges of Movijovem and is a guarantor of the mission and purposes to which youth hostels were founded (to provide affordable accommodation for young people and contribute to fostering youth mobility)
- Represents more than 1000 organisations in the country
- They are all volunteers and young
- Over 500.000 youth involved in their activities

As part of the Maximising Impact Programme grants, MOVIOVEM received a consultancy grant to carry national research among young people. Preliminary results were presented during the seminar and the main conclusions reveal:

- Over 10.000 answers
- Social Inclusion Laboratory contributes to data driven public policies
- Results show that the younger ones would like the most have the EYC

- Almost 50% of respondents would like to see more opportunities in educational and professional training areas
- About 60% of young Portuguese have gone abroad. Among these, half of them travel within the EU

The full presentation of the Youth Survey is available for consultation.

DAY 2 of the event

The next day was marked by the visit at IPDJ headquarters and more insightful conversations on youth policy ecosystem in Portugal. Participants learned about IPDJ and their main areas of work:

- Support for the youth associative life by offering grants to youth organisations, student groups, student associations
- Youth mobility organisations: MOVIOJOVEM, IPDJ, CNJ, FNAJ
- National Youth Plan 2022 – 2024 focus:
 - -improve inter-ministerial coordination
 - -increase and improve youth policies

Other interesting facts:

- IPDJ has a Board of Directors. State Secretary is responsible for their Action Plan:
- They accepted 400 youth led start ups to be funded
- They are planning to use the EYC to promote healthy lifestyle campaigns among youth
- All actions that IPDJ initiatives and is dedicated directly to youth, they ask Movijovem to promote it among cardholders. So IPDJ and Movijovem work together to use the EYC as a communication channel with young people
- The National Youth Action Plan is cross sectoral.

The study visit ended with a tour of the building and an informal lunch during which participants networked and exchanged ideas on how to best implement EYC services.

All presentations delivered during the two days of study visit are [available at this link](#).

DRAFT SEMINAR PROGRAMME

DAY 0 Monday 3 rd of April	
Until 20.00	Arrival of participants and dinner at Évora Youth Hostel
DAY 1 Tuesday 4 th of April	
09.30 – 10.00	<p>Welcome</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Movijovem Board + Local Authorities • Council of Europe • EYCA Director
10.00 – 10.30	<p>Aim and objectives of this seminar + study visit.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • mapping the audience • expectations
10.30 – 11.15	General presentation of MOVIJOVEM
11.15 – 11.45	Coffee break
11.45 -13.00	<p>Good practices from MOVIJOVEM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-management in a semi-public organisation & involving young people – Plataforma J • National youth survey • EYC as a tool to mobility • Offer of accommodation to university students by Youth Hostels <p>Questions and Answers session</p>
13.00 – 14.30	Lunch break
14.30 – 15.45	<p>Good practices from MOVIJOVEM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intrarail with the national railway company • Partnerships with municipalities • Sustainable projects • Effective communication <p>Questions and Answers session</p>
15.45 – 16.15	Coffee break
16.15 – 17.30	<p>Good practices from local youth stakeholders</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local students' university representatives • Local Youth Associations <p>Questions and Answers session</p>
17.30 – 17.45	Closing remarks for the first day

17.45 – 18.30	Cultural Tour to the Temple of Diana, UNESCO
20.00	Dinner in Evora
DAY 2 Wednesday 5^h of April	
9.00-10.00	Travel from Évora Youth Hostel to Lisbon Youth Centre (CJL)
10.30 – 13.00	<p>Visit at Lisbon Youth Centre (CJL) and proposed discussion / presentations from youth stakeholders.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome from IPDJ • IPDJ and the governmental perspective on collaborating with EYC/MOVIJOVEM • PNJ (National Youth Plan) as a strategic way forward • National Youth Council • National Federation of Youth Associations <p>Closing remarks of the event</p> <p><i>Coffee-break available at the Center</i></p>
13.00	Lunch at the Lisbon Youth Center and departures (*)

