

## Inclusive education & YPWD and transitions

### *Working Group Youth – Online Meeting 1/2022*

31 March 2022

10:30 – 12:30 CET

Zoom

### Background

In recent years EPR members have increasingly expressed interest collaborating in the area of working with young people with disabilities. The joint work started off in December 2020 at the (online) National Awareness Raising Event (NARE) in Germany where a number of EPR members presented their services and programmes for young people with disabilities. In addition, EPR is currently leading 2 Erasmus+ projects with members focused on young people, [Jump2Job](#) and [TransitAction](#).

On 17 May and 30 June 2021, two meetings were organised to start off a thematically focused exchange and mutual learning on services for young people with disabilities. The participants identified a number of topics of common interest: 1) Adaptation of services to new demands in the labour market for young people with a disability or mental health issues and to their specific needs; 2) Improvement of the employability of young people with a disability or mental health issues, including by addressing motivational issues for them to learn; 3) How to effectively accompany and support a shift to hybrid models of learning, teaching and training; 4) Inclusive education – successful models to learn from; 5) Organisation of trans-national exchanges for young people with a disability or mental health issues.

In the second meeting, field 2) was taken up with an exchange on “Transition Management” for young PwD from school and training into employment, illustrated with a good practice example from Northern Ireland. The EPR Secretariat gave an overview on relevant EU policy frameworks and funds in the fields of youth policy and child and youth welfare, pointing out the policy initiatives and the programmes thematically most strongly linked to the training and support services provided by EPR members.

The meeting organised on Zoom on 31 March will serve three main aims: First, discussing and agreeing on the work programme for 2022. Second to have an exchange on inclusive education, i.e., how to make it happen and how to best address key challenges. As you are all practitioners, this exchange should also focus on adaptations to the services you provide needed and on what are the preconditions to realise inclusive education. Third, starting the exchange on a key aspect of EPR’s annual theme, pathways to employment, in our case on transitions from education and training into employment for YPWD. It should ultimately feed into a publication of good practises and an event on the topic. The forth aspect shortly addressed is the EU-level policy and programme framework, in particular the European Year 2022 on Youth.

Colleagues are asked to indicate to me if you can make a contribution on the topic of inclusive education to facilitate mutual exchange and learning – which would be highly appreciated –, ideally by 23 March.

Participants are asked to fill in the registration form by 28 March, 12h00 CEST, at the latest.

## Agenda

10:30 – 10:35 **Welcome and introductions** (Mathias Maucher, EPR)

10:35 – 10:50 **Presentation and discussion of Work Programme 2022** (Mathias Maucher, EPR)

*Mathias will present a proposal how to organise the three meetings foreseen in 2022, in line with the EPR Work Programme 2022. To be discussed and agreed. He will recall which joint challenges and common topics have been identified in the meetings of the Thematic Incubator Youth on 17 May and 30 June 2021. He will also put a spotlight on EPR's ongoing youth-related projects [Jump2Job](#) and [TransitAction](#), both coming close to their finalisation.*

10:50 – 11:00 **European Year of Youth (2022): Summary information & Identification of possible hooks to share outcomes of WG** (Benedetta Pesce, EPR)

11:00 – 12:00 **Inclusive education: How to make it happen and to address key challenges?** (N.N., tbc)

2 or 3 presentations by members on their activities, experience with the implementation of concepts of inclusive education and existing/good practice in relation to the questions put below.

Questions to address – **block 1 on concept of inclusive education and challenges when implementing it:** 1) How to best learn together in supporting the concept of inclusive education and in line with the requirements/principles of the [United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](#) (UN CRPD)? 2) Which legislation and other provisions need to be in place to support the shift towards inclusive education? 3) How to address practical challenges identified to realise inclusive education (e.g., parents of YPWD prefer they stay in special schools which are often better adapted to their needs when it comes to staffing, as the easiest and safest option, with less exposure to bullying and more individualised support system in place?) 4) How can we approach schools and help them to be inclusive as to having the equipment for those with complex needs (e.g., those needing hoists, wheelchairs that require large space)?

Questions to address – **block 2 on adaptations to the services needed and what are the preconditions to realise inclusive education** (e.g., regarding equipment and material, qualifications and skills of staff, supportive regulation): 1) How to best support those with autism with the right support and understanding of the needs of autism? 2) How to support YPWD in mainstream schools, especially those with complex needs – given increasing challenges with pupils with behavioural problems of different kinds?

12:00 – 12:15 **Preparation of publication "Young People and Transitions": Concept & Table of content – Agreement on next steps up to June** (Benedetta Pesce, EPR)

*After Benedetta's presentation we will exchange on the thematic focus of the publication, what EPR members are able to contribute (e.g., good practice examples; sharing of evidence; sharing of experiences) and how this process can be best organised.*

**12:15 – 12:25 Identification of priority topics for updates on the EU policy framework and recent initiatives in the fields of child and youth welfare and youth policy**

*Mathias will ask the participants for which EU policy frameworks and funds relevant for child and youth welfare and/or youth policy an update should be prepared for the second meeting of the WG Youth on 23 June.*

**12:25 – 12:30 Drawing conclusions and discussing next steps** (Mathias Maucher, EPR)

## Registration

To attend this meeting, please register here before the 28 March, 12h00 CET. The link to join the seminar and further instructions will be sent to all registered participants a few days prior to the event.

If you become unable to attend, please let EPR know in advance.

## Contact

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