**Proposal for a joint monitoring approach of SNACs**

This proposal was created by the cooperation group of the Youth Work related SNACs as outcome of their already existing co-operation. Participating SNACs are:

* Europe Goes Local (EGL)
* European Academy on Youth Work (EAYW)
* Education and Training of Youth Workers (EaT)
* Digital Youth Work (DIGI)
* European Youth Work Agenda (EYWA)

**Expectations regarding the Heads of NAs**

* A direction for the **next steps following this proposal**: The five SNACs connected want to get a clear direction about a common monitoring approach. This should contain a common way of using a monitoring system to present the impact and effects of the single SNACs and at the same time present common results, that can be used for political and quality development purposes.
* A direction if on the long-run this monitoring approach should be **applied by all SNACs** or only by the five Youth Work SNACs who initiated it.

**Background of this initiative:**

* Origin of the Youth Work SNACs cooperation: During the formation period of the SNAC projects within the NA/SALTO network in 2020, it was discussed if a closer co-operation of the youth work related SNACs should be established. After discussions within the TCA/NET working group and the Business Meeting in Portugal 2020, a thematic cluster on youth work was approached. This development was also in line with a proposal made by the European Commission to install a coordinating approach and streamlining of especially Youth Work SNACs.
* Within the EYWA SNAC it was agreed that one of the aims is "Strengthening connections and synergies among youth work related activities of the NA network through establishing a coordinated approach among the SNACs dealing with youth work development"
* The exploration of a closer co-operation of the mentioned five SNACs (“Youth Work SNACs“) was initiated in July 21: The group met four times between July 2021 and March 2022, identified possible fields of co-operation and prioritised certain fields to be explored in a first step. As one of the prioritised fields they explored the common need for establishing a monitoring approach for their SNACs.
* The group identified the following three dimensions for a joint approach:
  + Assessment of the impact of the programmes on certain strategies relevant for the Youth Work SNACs (within RAY STRAT)
  + Monitoring of progress and results of SNACs: mapping of needs and shaping a possible modular monitoring mechanism
  + Taking into consideration existing specific research projects and monitoring and evaluation processes linked to the single SNACs
* As the need for setting up monitoring mechanisms is very urgent for some of the five SNACs, this initiative needs advice from the Heads of NAs as early as possible to equip the group with backing and clear direction to initialise the approach.

**Connected aspects**

This proposal is very much connected to general aspects of communication and co-operation of and among all SNACs, which would benefit from a joint development perspective:

* External visibility & communication of the SNACs
* Internal visibility & cooperation
* Co-operation between the SNAC co-ordinators as well as between the SNAC co-ordinators and the Heads of NAs

**Aims and perspectives towards a common monitoring approach**

The Youth Work SNACs have started to explore the aims and perspectives for a common monitoring approach. They identified on the one hand that they share certain general aims and on the other hand that they have specific objectives which differ from each other. Therefore, the objectives follow a two-step need:

* In a first step, a mapping of needs of SNACs is needed to generate a basis for a targeted design of the joint monitoring exercise
* In a second step, based on the outcomes of the mapping of needs, the aims and objectives of the joint monitoring exercise should be shaped and building up on these, a modular monitoring approach should be set up.
* The monitoring exercise could address the following possible aims:
  + Justification for the use of resources
  + Creation of an overview how the SNACs are implemented
  + Key contents: aims and objectives
  + Management and operational aspects: communication, coordination
  + Programmatic aspects: how well does the SNAC work within and for the wider programme context?
  + Contribution of the SNACs to the realisation of programme- and sector-specific strategies
  + Formats: how well have which (types of) events contributed to the SNAC’s aims and objectives?
  + Analysis of the outputs of the SNACs and their activities
  + Networking aspects: how well do the SNACs intertwine and cooperate and create synergies?
  + How could strategic cooperation projects of National Agencies be strengthened specifically to reinforce their strategic role and contribution?
* These aims could be tackled via two different agreements:
  + On the one hand, by RAY-STRAT: exploring the contribution of the European youth programmes to programme strategies (such as the inclusion, participation and education and training strategies) and sector strategies (such as the EU Youth Strategy and European Youth Work Agenda). RAY-STRAT aims to explore how the European youth programmes contribute to these strategies both through activities/projects of programme beneficiaries and, crucial for this context, also through strategic cooperation projects of National Agencies.
  + On the other hand, by an agreement with an external monitoring team focusing on the monitoring dimension of the above-mentioned aims and objectives.

**Open questions:**

* How do we envisage to set up a proper joint monitoring process, how will this be steered?
* How should a steering group look like and what milestones should be envisaged in what timing – compared to which resources to assess properly the monitoring approach and results?
* How is the monitoring process to be financed?
* Who should take the lead in implementing and contracting the agreement?
* Who should be invited to get involved in the mapping exercise (all SNACs)?