

EYCA BOARD & PRESIDENT APPLICATION 2020

The application deadline is the 24th of September 2020. Please be aware that this application form should be filled in by ALL Board member/President candidates and has to be accompanied by the applicant's CV (maximum 2 pages of experience, education and training relevant for the position). All applications should be supported by at least one full EYCA member. Group Board member candidates need to be supported by at least one full EYCA member from the respective group.

CANDIDATURE

Non-Group Board Candidate
Group Board Candidate
President Candidate

Please tick appropriate, multiple selection is possible.

APPLICANT'S DETAILS

First Name: Liliya
Surname: Elenkova
Birth date: 15 May 1981
Work phone: +359887521873
Mobile phone: +359887521873
E-mail: lili@youthcard.bg

APPLICANT'S INVOLVEMENT IN EYCA

Please describe your experience within the EYCA network; which EYCA member organisation(s) you were/are involved in and how.

National Youth Card Association /NYCA/ is a NGO, established in December 2015 as a successor of Euro 26 Foundation. **NYCA is the member organisation of European Youth Card Association in Bulgaria.** The mission of the organisation is to encourage and to support youth mobility and active participation in civic life. The main goal is to engage young people to act as active and responsible citizens of Bulgaria and European Union, to empower them through inclusion in different forms of mobility and participation in intercultural meetings and to enhance the understanding of human diversity and human rights. NYCA makes constantly an efforts to involve young people and youth workers in community work and volunteering, hence to better the environment for development of competences which will improve their social inclusion, employability, participation, well - being, communication skills, and etc. Following its mission and goal NYCA's activities are related to: access to quality youth information, dissemination of information; better opportunities for youth mobility and participation on national and EU level; development of the EYCA network for youth discounts in Bulgaria; youth initiatives; funding small youth projects; organisation of different seminars; conferences, training and other youth events.

Additional focus for NYCA is: support the development of youth professional competences and improvement of the capacity of the young people to join the labor market; support the recognition and validation of educational competencies acquired through informal learning; promote the voluntary service among young people; advocate and lobby for youth interest and needs in front of Bulgarian and European institutions.

NYCA has Board of three people: Liliya Elenkova is board member and she is fully engaged in the Project management of the organisation.

The experience of Liliya Elenkova covers within the organization on national level the whole project management cycle of:

2016

- National Youth Seminar "**Youth competences - youth empowerment**". The main goal of the event is to put together the existing knowledge on the topic and to encourage young people to elaborate on it and to give their opinion and recommendations. Experts from ECVET team and NAVET (National Agency for VET) were invited to present the "key competences" and "learning outcomes based approach" and tools for recognition, validation and certification. The participants made their recommendations which were included in policy paper, adopted by the GA of National Youth Forum.

2017

- "**Strategic planning in the Youth Sphere**" – training for youth leaders and youth workers. The training had well developed methodology including lecture from a professor in non – formal way and workshops to process the knowledge. The main goal was trainers and youth workers in the field to develop basic competences in strategy planning and strategy development and how to link their actions with the process.
- "**Youth in Europe - better Europe**" International Youth Conference. This conference, aimed to bring together over 60 active young leaders and youth workers from all over European Union and beyond to discuss "Better Inclusion of Young Refugees in Education, Labour market and Society". Report attached¹.
- **Youth Academy for Civic Rights** - The main goal of this project was to support civil rights education at local and national level in order to strengthen civil society, to sustain civil participation in Bulgaria and to develop competent democratic youth network. The learning outcomes were measured through description of competences, peer to peer assessment, and decomposition of the knowledge to units. The principles of ECVET were applied.

2018

- **Youth Academy for Civic Rights** – second edition;
- **Capacity Building Training for Trainers and Youth Workers**. The main goal of the training was to develop the capacity of the trainers and youth workers in the youth field to formulate learning outcomes before, during and after the trainings and events they deliver. The training was based on the principles of ECVET and was led by professional from National agency for VET.
- Coordination meeting "**Youth work - future, challenges and solutions**". The meeting was organized by NYCA, National Youth Forum and Ministry of education and science and brought together different stakeholders (institutions, youth organizations, professionals) to discuss the current situation of youth work recognition, to synchronize different activities, and to propose solutions to facilitate the dialogue between the stakeholders.

2019 - 2020

- "**Youth work and Youth workers across Europe - good examples from practice about volunteering, employment, education and training**" project. Erasmus+ KA2 project in partnership with 8 other organisations, 4 of them are EYCA member organisations. The project is about *sharing good practices*. The main activity is NAPOR's Youth work educational program presentation and implementation within partnership. NAPOR is the National Association of Youth work and Youth workers in Serbia, they have 6 months educational program for youth workers which they agreed to share within the project partnership.

¹ <https://youthcard.bg/news/youth-in-europe>

More information about the project and the results: <https://youthcard.bg/project-youth-workers>

2020 - 2021

- **PA Cultural routes initiative** in cooperation with EYCA. This joint cooperation was established to “experience more European culture with the European Youth Card Special Edition on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe”. NYCA was fully engaged in the process for the territory of Bulgaria.
- **“The Art of Ethics in Youth Work”** project. The project is in cooperation with 5 different organisations. The project aims to improve the quality and recognition of youth work through advancing ethical frameworks on policy and practical level, in Europe and beyond. Specific objectives:
 - ✓ To raise awareness of youth workers and policy makers on importance of ethics for recognition of youth work.
 - ✓ To explore benefits and limitations of existing policies and supporting mechanisms in the context of ethics in youth work in Europe and beyond through evidence based data.
 - ✓ To build capacities of youth workers by increasing competences for moral and critical reasoning.
 - ✓ To increase quality of youth work by introducing innovative supporting methods and tools related to ethics in youth work.
 - ✓ Creating synergies among European and partner countries through exchange of practice and establishing cooperation in the field of youth work.

EYCA related:

- **2016.** Samobor, Croatia. The seminar on *Mobility towards inclusion: EYC supporting young migrants & refugees* was part of the 2016 programme of activities of the Council of Europe Partial Agreement on Youth Mobility through the Youth Card. *Participant.*
- **2017.** Nikosia, Cyprus. *Countering violent extremism and youth radicalization: using the EYC to promote peaceful communities* seminar. *Participant.*
- **2017.** Varna, Bulgaria. *Promotional Seminar of the PA on Youth Mobility through the European Youth Card* - This promotional seminar was part of the 2017 programme of activities of the Council of Europe Partial Agreement on Youth Mobility through the Youth Card. It was organized by the Partial Agreement on Youth Mobility and the European Youth Card Association (EYCA) in cooperation with the National Youth Card Association Bulgaria /NYCA/ and Varna – European Youth Capital Association /Varna – EYC/. *Host.*
- **2018.** Budva, Montenegro. *From youth policies to good practices: the European Youth Card as a tool to promote access to social rights for all young people* seminar. The seminar aims to identify possibilities of using EYC as a tool to reach out to the most vulnerable young persons and to ensure that they have access to information that defends their social rights. *Speaker. Presenting some of NYCA's activities as good practices.*
- **2018,** Zagreb, Croatia. *BRAIN DRAIN or BRAIN GAIN?* seminar of the Partial Agreement on Youth Mobility through the Youth Card and the European Youth Card Association (EYCA) on the role of the European Youth Card in providing opportunities for young people at home and abroad. *Participant.*
- **2019.** Helsinki, Finland. *Youth work and sustainable communities: the role of the European Youth Card in delivering youth work services* seminar. The Seminar took place in Helsinki, Finland, on 5-7 May 2019 as part of the programme of Partial Agreement on Youth Mobility through the European Youth Card, of the Council of Europe. *Speaker. Presenting some of NYCA's activities as good practices*

- **2019. Strasbourg, France. *Exploring different models of democratic participation: fostering youth participation through the EYC seminar.*** The seminar was organized to support the recognition of various forms of participation in community and democratic societies and to explore the different ways in which the EYC can be a tool for engagement of all young people. *Participant.*
- **2019. Palma de Mallorca, Spain. 3 Networks training: Enhancing Youth services Promotion and Outreach.** *Participant.*

Other opportunities for young people delivered by NYCA in partnership with other EYCA member organisations and other NGOs:

- **2018. Together. Diverse. Outdoor.** Outdoor seminar to try out different tools for promoting diversity and inclusion for youth workers and youth leaders. Organizer: ACARBIO
- **2018. Corporate Social Responsibility and Non – profits: a perfect match?** The seminar hosted speakers from both sides to present all possible good practices and to deliver fruitful information to the participants. Organizer: EYCA Slovenia
- **2019. Digital Youth Work seminar.** The main objective of the seminar is to present to the participant different digital youth work methods and how to use them. Organiser: EYCA Slovenia
- **2019. Youth activation campaign for the 2019 EU elections.** Main objectives of the project: mobilise young voters and provide unbiased and factual information about the elections; strengthen the communities of cardholders around debates and activities related to youth mobility and participation; strengthen EYCA's position as unique organisation which has the potential to reach out young people. Organizer: EYCA
- **2019. Wild style: live outdoors, love outdoors project.** The main objective of this youth exchange is to reconnect participants to nature through everyday camp life, outdoor activities in the woods, discuss and develop concepts of sustainability and respect for nature. Organizer: ACARBIO

ADDITIONAL RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

Please describe your work and experience outside of EYCA that is relevant for the position you are applying for.

National Youth Forum of Bulgaria

I have gained extensive expertise in the youth field by serving as vice – president (2010 - 2012) and as president (2012 - 2014) and by working as project manager (2015 - 2018) for the National Youth forum for 8 years. My experience in the NYF has given me the opportunity to become familiar and involved in the local, national, European and CoE policies in the youth field. As well I was representative of NYF in the European Steering Committee on Structured dialogue which is the managing body of the Structured dialogue process on European level.

PhD student, political science, in Sofia University

My dissertation is related to the emergence and development of the youth policy as public policy in Bulgaria. The period of research and analysis covers 26 years - from 1989 to 2016. The area of my research - youth policy, is an object of EYCA activities, as well significant part of my PhD work is to trace how the EU youth policy influenced the national youth policy of Bulgaria.

I have a good set of skills for research, analysis, data processing and drawing conclusions and recommendations, which I think will be useful for EYCA.

ECVET expert

My interest and experience in recognition, validation and certification of competences gained through non - formal and informal learning and the recommendation of EU Youth strategy /General initiatives, Education and training/ encouraged me to become ECVET expert in 2014. There is a lot of potential in this EU tool and its principles for ensuring the quality of learning mobility. I would love to bring this knowledge to EYCA.

PREFERRED PORTFOLIO OR AREA OF EXPERTISE

Which area of expertise or portfolio would you be able to lead or contribute to while on the EYCA Board? Please mention any relevant experience for your portfolio of choice. You can choose one of the existing portfolios - Digital, Member Strategy (members support, capacity building, MI, white territories), Strategic Partners (CSR, pan-European discounts), Youth Policy, Programme Development and Youth Engagement, Governance, Finances/treasurer, Brand and Communications.) - but you can also propose new strategic areas on which you believe the Board should focus.

Respecting the mentioned information in terms of the knowledge, skill and experience which I have gained through the years, I think I could lead and contribute to the following portfolios of EYCA:

Youth Policy

Member strategy (Capacity building, MI)

Additional:

The main objective of EYCA is to develop the concept and system of the EYC in Europe, as a tool to promote mobility and active citizenship of all young people in Europe up to the age of 30. Having that in mind and following Article 2, point 4 from the Statutes I could support EYCA in its cooperation with its partners such as Council of Europe, European Commission, European Parliament, European Youth Forum, ERYICA, EURODESK, CSR Europe.

LANGUAGE SKILLS

Please mark your language skills using the following: Native, Excellent, Very Good, Good, Basic.

Language	Verbal skills	Reading skills	Writing skills
English	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
German	Basic	Good	Good

MOTIVATION STATEMENT

Please explain your motivation to become an EYCA Board member/President, your plans, your intentions, your hopes, etc.

With this application I would like to express my interest in become EYCA board member. Over the last 10 years I have been committed to the development of youth field at national and European level. Also I am a PhD student (upcoming public defence) and my area of study is connected with youth policy on national level and the influence of EU Youth policy for the past 30 years. I believe that the competences gained through the years make me a good fit for EYCA family and I could bring new experience and knowledge.

As part of the National Youth Card Association team I am responsible for the second pillar of EYCA – opportunities for young people. The projects activities and objectives are horizontal as the youth interests and needs and they are covering from youth exchanges and volunteering to youth engagement in decision making process. My added value to the projects is linked, besides the whole project life cycle, but to ensure the quality through implementation of standards and procedures for young people service, transparency and communication.

I have also gained extensive expertise in the youth field while serving and then working for the National

Youth forum for 8 years. My experience in the NYF has given me the opportunity to become familiar and involved in the local, national, European and CoE policies in the youth field. As well as representative of NYF I was part of the European Steering Committee on Structured dialogue, with the SD process I am familiar process since the very beginning and I was part of the National Working group until 2018.

My interest in recognition, validation and certification of competences gained through non - formal and informal learning and the recommendation of EU Youth strategy /General initiatives, Education and training/ encouraged me to become ECVET expert. There is a lot of potential in this EU tool and its principles for ensuring the quality of learning mobility. I would be happy to share this experience with you.

Personally I am well organised, responsible and I manage my time well. I know how to develop my ideas by treating the existing rules and principles with deep respect. I like to take the initiative and also work quite well in a team to achieve results, to contribute and enrich the capacity, to maintain high transparency and quality, as well to support the governance in the best interests of the organisation and its all Members.

Having that in mind I think I can bring new experience and perspective for effective and efficient achievement of goals and results in the EYCA strategic framework.

DISCLOSURE

In compliance with Article 17.4 of the EYCA Statutes, please disclose any potential or perceived conflicts of interest that might relate to your position as an EYCA Board member. Conflicts of interest may arise from any direct or indirect personal or economical stakes or interests in a Member's business, or in the business of a partner of a Member or of a partner of the Association, or of a competitor of EYCA, e.g. by ownership, by participation or by contract.

N/A

DECLARATION AND SIGNATURE BY SUPPORTING EYCA MEMBER

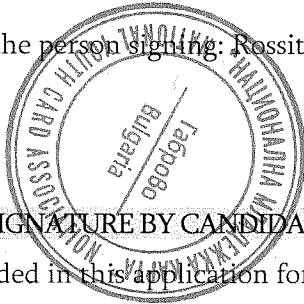
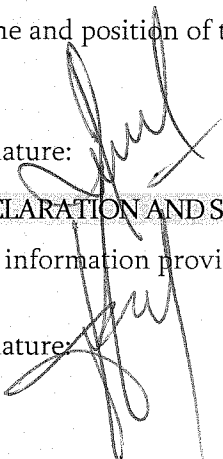
Statement of support with regard to the candidate fulfilling the Board membership criteria listed in Article VII of the EYCA Internal Regulations.

We officially support the above candidature.

EYCA member organisation: National Youth Card Association

Name and position of the person signing: Rossitza Pantcheva, Chair Person, NYCA

Signature:



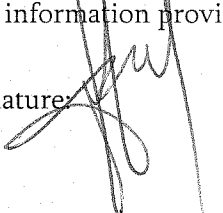
Date:

18 September, 2020

DECLARATION AND SIGNATURE BY CANDIDATE

The information provided in this application form is accurate to the best of my knowledge.

Signature:



Date:

18 September, 2020

Please send your completed form to manel.sanchez@eyca.org by September 24, 2020.