



**European Youth
Card Association**

GOOD PRACTICE SERIES EIGHT

INCLUSIVE YOUTH MOBILITY

Better mobility opportunities for
young people with disabilities or from
disadvantaged backgrounds

eyca.org

EMPOWERING EUROPE'S YOUTH

We are the European Youth Card Association (EYCA) - a non-governmental, not-for-profit association of 38 member organisations in 36 countries across Europe. Together we work to empower Europe's youth.

EYCA member organisations issue the European Youth Card to 5 million young people and strive to achieve our vision of a Europe where all young people are mobile and active. We aim to encourage more young people to be socially, culturally, educationally and economically mobile by delivering quality European Youth Card services and by contributing to better youth policy.

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INCLUSIVE YOUTH MOBILITY

Since 1991 EYCA has co-operated with the Council of Europe to deliver a work programme connected to the Partial Agreement on Youth Mobility through the Youth Card. 21 Member States of the Council of Europe contribute to this Partial Agreement to develop, in collaboration with EYCA member organisations, more effective policy and practice responses to youth mobility.

This publication showcases good practice from our network presented during the EYCA-Council of Europe Partial Agreement seminar on better mobility opportunities for young people with disabilities or from disadvantaged backgrounds.

YOUTH CARDS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN STATE CARE

CARNET JOVE, CATALONIA, SPAIN

Disadvantaged young people who live in foster care are a particularly vulnerable group and lack many of the opportunities most young people can access. Since 2008, the Catalan Youth Agency has been operating a special programme using youth cards to support the social inclusion of young people who do not live with their parents as a result of difficult family backgrounds.

Young people in state care receive support via the youth cards in the following ways:

- They receive the youth card for free when they reach the age of 14. The card is valid until they turn 21.
- They are able to access the same services and advantages as all other cardholders, including nearly 8,000 discounts and benefits in Catalonia and 60,000 discounts and benefits across Europe through the EYCA network.
- They have the opportunity to take part in programmes and services delivered by the Catalan Youth Agency, such as internship programmes.
- Briefing and training are provided to social services workers to inform them about youth card opportunities.

According to Catalan Government's survey of the impact of youth cards on young people in the region, Carnet Jove cardholders have higher levels of participation and social concern, more hobbies and use cultural leisure options more than non-cardholders.

carnetjove.cat

***In 2014, nearly
1,000 young
people in state care
benefited from the
European Youth
Card programme
in Catalonia.***

ENGAGING EXCLUDED YOUNG PEOPLE



YOUNG SCOT, SCOTLAND, UK

Young Scot has a great track record of programmes and activities designed to engage excluded young people, supporting them on the path to positive destinations. Here are just a few examples:


- The Young Scot All In Audit Programme had young people from excluded groups act as expert inspectors looking into the inclusiveness and accessibility of Young Scot services. Audits have produced specific changes in Young Scot services, for example improving the accessibility of information.
- Young Scot has established successful partnerships with various support agencies in order to inform young people in state care about the youth card and how they can access it. For instance, young people in three young offenders institutions in Scotland now receive the youth card on their release. The demand for the card has been very high, with over 200 requests in the first two weeks of the programme in one institution alone.

- The Young Scot card has helped eliminate the stigma associated with free school meals for children living in poverty. Children can access their free school meals anonymously through the cashless catering function of the card.


PROMOTING POSITIVE ROLE MODELS

The Young Scot Awards celebrates the achievements of young people in Scotland and puts them front and centre in a very high-profile annual ceremony with extensive media coverage.

The overall winners of the 2014 Young Scot Awards were the Young Care Leaver Campaigners – a group of 10 young people who grew up in the care system and successfully lobbied for the law in Scotland to give young people in care more support than ever before.



CO-DESIGNING ACCESSIBLE YOUTH SERVICES



YOUNG SCOT, SCOTLAND, UK

Around 16,000 Young Scot cardholders (over 3%) have a disability and use their card to access free travel. In order to improve their services and make them more accessible to young people with disabilities, Young Scot started working with the Haggeye Youth Forum to co-design youth card services.

The Haggeye Youth Forum works with 12 to 25 year olds living with sight loss in Scotland and aims to encourage more local and national facilities and services to be made more accessible to these young people. The organisation creates opportunities for young people with sight loss to meet new people and make new friends, take part in social activities, influence the provision of services and, importantly, to campaign for change.

Haggeye was thus in a perfect position to provide Young Scot with ideas on how to make their services more accessible to partially sighted young people. During the inclusive mobility seminar in Vienna, two young representatives from Haggeye, Tuesday Berry and Katrina Thomson, presented their organisation and co-operation with Young Scot and demonstrated the importance of inclusive mobility opportunities.

“A year ago I would not have dreamed of coming to this seminar in Vienna. Haggeye has helped me to get out of my house and really live my life.”

***Tuesday Berry,
Haggeye Youth Forum***



ONLINE ACCESSIBILITY FOR ALL



CARNÉ JOVEN, MADRID, SPAIN

From June 2014, young people with disabilities can access and take full advantage of the online platform of Carné Joven in Madrid. An accessibility audit found that www.carnejovenmadrid.com is in compliance with the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.0, level AA.

The Web Content Accessibility Guidelines are a set of recommendations and standards set by the Web Accessibility Initiative of the World Wide Web Consortium. Technology, implementation and design rules come together to facilitate equal access to information for as many young people as possible, including those with visual, hearing or mental impairments.

“For us it is very important to work in an inclusive manner. Our ideal is for all young people who live in Madrid to have a Carné Joven, irrespective of their place of origin, socio-economic level and/or abilities.”

Maite Hernández, Carné Joven, Madrid

GREAT IDEA



CARNÉ JOVEN EUROPEO, ARAGÓN, SPAIN

Since 2012, young people with visual disabilities living in Aragón, Spain can access a special edition of the European Youth Card designed especially for them. The card features an identification marking in Braille, which helps cardholders use the QR code on the card and differentiate their European Youth Card from their other cards.

carnejoen.es

Want to find out more about EYCA and how we can work together? Contact us!

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