

The ETSN Youth Platform

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The [ETSN Youth Platform](#) was set up hardly one year after the establishment of the ETSN, in the summer of 2016.

The idea of having a youth section occurred partly within the ETSN, but AnnaMaria Roncoroni, head of the Italian Talent Centre, has also pondered the idea of attracting young people to the ECHA for years.

Thanks to Roncoroni's activity and the Austrian organisers of the [2016 ECHA conference](#) the first youth meeting, the "Summit", took place in March 2016, parallel with the Vienna ECHA Conference. While being together, the youth drew up the [Charter](#) on the rights of gifted students accessible on our website to this day.

The ETSN Talent Centres had helped a lot in delegating the youth and financing their travel already in 2016. Students getting acquainted in Vienna during the summer and in the spring, together with the then management of ECHA and ETSN, set up the ETSN Youth Platform, the youth section within the ETSN.

Talent Points/Centres could delegate high ability students interested also in talent support to the Platform. During that summer, students considered the goals and organisational structure of the Youth Platform of ETSN, and their ideas were then integrated into the [Articles](#) of ETSN. The first elected Youth Platform Council met in October 2016, and discussed the plans for the 2017 Budapest Summit.

The Budapest meeting was followed by meetings in Dublin and then Dubrovnik, and in the meantime, colleagues active in the organising teams as well as students have gained important experience. The first and mainly most relevant one was that despite the many advantages of linking the ECHA Conference and the Youth Summit, their parallel organisation imposed an incredible workload on the conference organiser staff.

The second experience concerned the marked differences in the national legislations applicable to the youth in Europe, not to speak of countries outside Europe. In some countries, a student under the age of 18 is not even allowed to travel without his/her parents, etc. This makes it rather difficult to have a group of young persons with different cultural and legal backgrounds and of diverse ages (14-30), and to design common programmes for them. Consequently, at the recent, end-of-February meeting, the current management of the Youth Platform set itself the goal to compile, together with members of the [Network Council](#) guidelines for organising the Summit in order to assist all Talent Centres that would undertake this task in the future.

The completed Summit Guideline (see next page) will be available on the ETSN website and also on the respective websites of the Talent Centres.

Youth Platform (YP) Summit Guidelines

1. YP Summits should be organized separately from the ECHA conferences. The main reason of it is that it is very hard for the organisers to concentrate on two very different types of events.
2. YP Summits always should be organised at the same time of the year preferably at the end of September or at the beginning of October so Talent Centres / Points and the Platform members can count on the time. Because of this timing the application process to the YP Summit should be finished by the end of June.
3. Summits should be organised by Talent Centres taking turns and the locations should be decided during the meeting of the Talent Centres preferably 3 years in advance.
4. Summits preferably should be organised in locations which are central and cheaper in order to have more participants.
5. Organisers should accept the fact that the age of the Youth Platform members is from 14-30 thus the YP Summit should be open to any of its members, but only members can participate at the Summits. The YP Platform Council members can participate at the Summits automatically.
6. The number of participants should be decided by the actual Summit organiser Talent Centre, it can vary according to the possibilities of each organiser. When calculating the final number of the students chaperons for students under 18 should be taken into account.
7. The participants of the YP Summit are chosen by the Talent Centres; the Centres send the application forms directly to the organisers; the expenses of the YP delegates can be paid preferably by Talent Centres / Talent Points, however, in some cases it is possible to pay by the participant her/himself.
8. The program of the Summits should be always put together by the Youth Platform Council and the organisers according to the given program guidelines. YP Council has a suggestion for a guest speakers this must be proposed 6 months in advance of the Summit to give the organisers time to find the right persons.
9. The Youth Platform Summit should include the following types of activities. The topics of these preferably should be related to the summit's main topic: talent, giftedness or soft skills:
 - Interactive workshops with at most 15 people
 - Lectures given by guest speakers
 - „Lightning talks“ where participants present something in connection with their own country
 - Cultural Evening (every participating country brings their own food and can present their culture e.g. show traditional dances)
 - Visits of local institutions e.g. the local Talent Centre / a university
 - City Tour

10. The advertisement of the Youth Platform Summit should start at least 6 months before the Summit and it is organized by the YP council regarding the Youth Platform members. Talent Centres / ETSN office and the local organisers also should take part in the advertisement process, centres and the office should tell their Talent Points about the possibility to take part in the YP Summit.

11. The registration process:

- as preferably the process should be finished by the end of June it should begin in the beginning of March (this timing is valid if the Summit is in September/beginning of October in every other cases it should be rethought acc. to the date of the Summit)
- YP Council members, ETSN office and the Talent Centres should send out the application forms to YP members, to Talent Points etc. (see advertisement process)
- YP members from those countries where they have Talent Centres should send their application form to their Talent Centres
- YP members from those countries where you do not have a Talent Centre should send their application form to the ETSN office, in their case either their Talent Point or themselves should pay for the participation.
- If a student is interested to take part in the Summit should apply to the Youth Platform
- Talent Centres should select the possible participants and put together a list of stand-by participants too. They should send the list directly to the organiser.
- ETSN office together with the Network Council should select participants from those Talent Points where they have no Talent Centre and should send their list to the organisers.
- The organiser puts together the final list of participants acc. to places, they should approximately evenly distribute the places among the Talent Centres. They should inform the Talent Centres and the ETSN office by the end of June.
- The actual time-line of the process should be put together by the ETSN office and the actual organiser each Summit year.

12. During the Summit: Different types of meeting rooms should be provided. One meeting room that is big enough for all participants is mandatory. 1-2 additional small meeting rooms (depending on the number of participants) are needed for the workshops. The rooms should be equipped with projectors and flipcharts. Moreover, pens, papers and post-its should be

provided. The participants should be provided with name badges, pens and a little notebook (e.g. A5 notebook).

13. Preferably breakfast, lunch and dinner should be organised for the participants and additionally, water should be provided during the whole day. If possible, coffee breaks twice a day are welcomed.
14. The accommodation should be affordable. If the Summit venue is far away from the accommodation, the public transport should be preferably included in the participation fee.
15. When applying participants should be notified about all the expences which are covered by the participation fee and which are not. A list of additional costs should be made available for the participants before the final registration. It is desired to keep the fee as low as possible.
16. Participants should be given a certificate of participation at the end of the Summit. Participants should have a report on the event which also contains the evaluation of the event, this should be published in the TalentWeb.

Exemplary timetable:

There are 11 slots in total for Summit work. They could be organized as follows:

- 7 slots should be organized by the Summit Organizer. These slots should be composed from lectures, workshops and if possible, excursions. The Youth Platform Council might give advice regarding the people giving the lectures/workshops. As example there should be
 - 4 lectures
 - 2 workshops
 - 1 excursion / visit of local institution
- 4 slots are organized by the Youth Platform Council alone covering workshops and lightning talks

Time	1. Day	2. Day	3. Day	4. Day	5. Day
		Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast
09:00 - 10:30	Arriving	Introduction of ETSN and YP and Summit Topic	Summit Work	Summit Work	Departure
10:45 - 12:15		Summit Work	Summit Work	Summit Work	
12:30 - 13:30		Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	
13:45 - 15:15		Summit Work	Summit Work	Summit Work	

15:30 - 17:00		Summit Work	Summit Work	Summit Work	
18:00 - 20:00	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	
20:00 -	Get to know games	Free time	City tour	Cultural evening	