



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
Directorate-General for Education and Culture

Youth and sport  
**Youth; Erasmus+**

Brussels, 10<sup>th</sup> of April 2014  
EAC/D.1/FM (2014)

## REPORT

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**Subject:** Third meeting of the Expert Group on youth work quality systems in EU Member States

**Venue:** European Commission, DG EAC, Joseph II, 70 - Brussels

**Date:** 17-18 February 2014

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### **Purpose of the meeting**

During the third meeting of the Expert Group on **youth work quality systems in the EU Member States**, the main part was devoted to

#### **1. Presentation of quality aspects in the study on the value of youth work in the EU**

Fabienne Metayer presented the study recently released on the value of youth work in the EU.

*See Prezi used for the presentation:*

[http://prezi.com/ithiuoovjtv/d/working-with-young-people-the-value-of-youth-work-in-the-eu/?utm\\_campaign=share&utm\\_medium=copy](http://prezi.com/ithiuoovjtv/d/working-with-young-people-the-value-of-youth-work-in-the-eu/?utm_campaign=share&utm_medium=copy)

*Internet link to the study and annexes:*

[http://ec.europa.eu/youth/news/2014/20140219-youth-work-study\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/youth/news/2014/20140219-youth-work-study_en.htm)

#### **2. Presentation of the report of the Expert Group on creative and innovative potential of young people**

The EG report underlines that non-formal education and learning has an important role to play in responding to youth unemployment and can play a key role in reaching out to all young people. Youth work does not provide jobs but engagement in the wide variety of activities it offers, helps young people to develop the knowledge, skills, and attitudes that are frequently said to be needed in the labour market.

Although its value is recognised at policy levels, non-formal education and learning is not widely understood. As a consequence it is often well down the list of priorities

when it comes to funding. This situation needs to be redressed by a concerted effort from the social partners, and from stakeholders at all levels.

The Expert Group recommends actions in the following areas:

1. Explaining non-formal learning to employers and educators
2. Translating non-formal learning outcomes to the world of work
3. Enhancing the ability of those working directly with young people
4. Developing a strong focus on entrepreneurship
5. Improving partnership working and cross-sector innovation
6. Extending the evidence base through focused research and impact analysis
7. Including non-formal education and learning in Youth Guarantee plans

### **3. Presentation of some initiatives on quality in the Member States**

Hans (NL) presented the development of a new professional code on child and youth work by a national volunteer group, based on Flemish and Australian experiences. He also presented a project called Trajekt op Maat, or T.O.M. (Tailor Made for Youth). T.O.M. is part of the policy strategy of the city of's-Hertogenbosch to reduce youth unemployment and early school leaving.

<http://www.youthpolicy.nl/yp/Youth-Policy/Youth-Policy-subjects/Education-and-Youth-Unemployment>

Tomas (SK) presented the new programme set up regarding quality criteria for institutional grants for big youth organisations in Slovakia. The Slovak government donates around € 2,4 million to youth work every year. A new granting scheme has been developed for 2014-2020, on the basis of two different standards (Basic and Higher). Every organisation has to fulfil all conditions of basic standards to get funding (depending on how many members they have). If they want to receive more money, they can go for higher standard and decide which part of it they apply for.

Conditions for basic standards are such as on-line information about their activities; democratic way of nomination into leading roles in organisation; transparent system of using Money from State budget; strategic plan for next years; preparation (training program) for their youth leaders; educational program for their member using principles of non-formal education....

Criteria for higher standards include quality of yearly report; quality of strategic plan; quality of educational program for their members; system of internal evaluation with their members and youth leaders; financial tools for social inclusion; involvement of young people with less opportunities; support system for youth leaders; using other educational opportunities (out of their organisation) for their leaders; cooperation with other stakeholders in youth work... *(power point presentation in Sinapse)*

Kirsi (FI) presented Finland's examples on existing "quality systems", such as tools for assessment of the youth work in the city network KANUUNA (Audition and self-evaluation model of youth centres, widely used in various parts of Finland), or the

assessment model for activities of youth organisations in the Helsinki area. (*power point presentation in Sinapse*)

Ewa (PL) presented the quality system of the network of Siemacha open youth centres, underlying that tools are built on democratic participation: child-centred reporting and aims. Quality for Siemacha is about long term contacts that build attachment and self-development of the children (*power point presentation in Sinapse*)

Kadi (ET) presented the youth work quality (assessment) system in Estonia. The youth quality scheme has been developed according to the main aims of the Youth Work Strategy; it has been developed by the Estonian Youth work Centre as a part of European Social Foundation Program “Developing youth work quality” for the period 2008-2013 (<http://www.entk.ee/eng/developingyouthworkquality%20>). It is targeted at local governments (including all youth work settings in this local level). 72 local authorities are currently participating, out of 215 (voluntary participation). the main aim is to offer supporting, advising and mentoring for local governments, not to control them (*power point presentation in Sinapse*).

Laura (LT) presented a quality assessment tool for youth policy in municipalities in Lithuania, which was set up in 2008; it is managed by a group of youth stakeholders' representatives, and applies to youth policy actors in municipalities, in NGOs, in institutions such as youth welfare centres...

This is a tool for the documentation, assessment, dialogue with stakeholders. Its aims are to increase the efficiency and harmonise the youth policy practice in the 60 municipalities in Lithuania. The data analysed is collected according to 9 main indicators (preconditions for youth policy implementation; youth participation; support for young people; youth non-formal education, youth training and counseling; youth information, inter-agency dimension, cross-sectorial dimension, integrity of youth policy, improvement and innovations of youth policy, international relations and cooperation). The assessment is supposed to take place every three years for each municipality.

#### **4. Identification of sub-themes for the following discussions in working groups**

A discussion followed on the identification of subthemes. It was decided to focus on which tools are used and useful in various settings, both describing possible common features and more specific elements.

#### **5. Plans for future meetings**

UPCOMING MEETINGS: 7-8 April, 16-17 June, 8-9 September 2014.

The next meeting will take place on the **7-8 April 2014** (starting on the 7<sup>th</sup> at 14.30, ending on the 8<sup>th</sup> at 15.30).

The work will be organised partly in working groups, focusing on quality systems in some particular youth work settings. On the 7<sup>th</sup> of April (from 14.30) we would split in three working groups. So far we have two working groups on youth centres, and one working on youth organisations (both for quality systems within the organizations, and for quality systems relating to public support of youth organizations).

Here is the composition each working group:

- 1<sup>st</sup> working group on Youth centres: Andreas, Ewa, Hans, Kadi, Kirsi
- 2<sup>nd</sup> working group on Youth centres: Christof, Isabelle, Jonas, Laura, Santa
- 3<sup>rd</sup> working group on Youth organizations/movements: Bruno, Ida, Matej, Rolf, Tomas.

The working groups would work as follows on the 7<sup>th</sup> of April:

- Every member would select a quality system/tool in the relevant youth work setting in his/her country and present it, including strengths and weaknesses.
- The presentations should make clear what kind of tool it is (for documentation, peer assessment, etc.) and on which organizational level (unit (Youth centre/organization), municipality, region or national) it is used/applicable.
- The group will then discuss the presentations/tools as such and also try to define/extract the 'essence'/principal elements of each example.

On the 8<sup>th</sup> of April the groups will present their findings to the plenary meeting.

These working groups are only on two (important but not exhaustive) settings for youth work. As for the other settings, (outreached youth work, youth work in institutions, etc.) the group envisaged to invite in later meetings experts dealing with these settings, so that the same procedure could be carried out regarding these settings.

## **Annexes**

- List of participants