CHILDREN'S RIGHTS
YOUTH GOALS &
PARTERNSHIP



"Evaluate, Engage, Empower 2021-2023, Children's rights, youth goals & partnership" Booklet, 1st. ed.

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I. INTRODUCTION

Dear Readers,

After two years of getting to know each other, planning, traveling, discussing and laughing, after saying goodbye to some and welcoming others, brainstorming, re-assessing, re-discussing and traveling again, after 60 hours of online meetings (give or take), 14 days of project meetings in presence and one full week of training – we, the project consortium, are proud to present you what we have learned and gained along the path, in form of this booklet.

Who is this for?

People like you and us, who are somehow interested or engaged in working with children, teens and young adults, either as a voluntary service or profession and also those supporting young people's needs on different political levels. We hope this booklet can inspire you to try out new methods of enhancing participation or dive deeper into the topic of Children's Rights and European Youth Goals connected to the field of (European) youth work. This is also meant as an invitation to practice self-critical reflection and to start a constructive exchange with us or within your transnational and local networks on how to further grow into confident actors who young people across Europe can trust.

THE PROJECT

CONTEXT

Within the European community there is increasing disintegration through discriminatory and populist policies & practices. In addition, there is a growing tendency (intensified by Covid-19) towards nationalism and closed borders. This has to be countered transnational cooperation and public spirit EU citizens. among active As youth organisations, we make an important contribution by developing and creating spaces where young people can meet, participate, get involved, but also experiment, propose and act on their society, especially in a context of discriminatory and nationalism policies. In this regard, transnational cooperation to develop youth work practices and strengthen the rights

and social participation of young people is crucial.

Although working cultures and objectives of youth organisations in Europe are different, there is a common interest: to recognise the concrete needs of young people and to create an environment in which they can develop their potential.

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the European Youth Goals are useful instruments for us to learn more about shared values in our work practice in a transnational context and to support each other, to share knowledge and best practice.

A network of solidarity, pooling resources and capacities, help us to respond to youth issues (social inequalities, climate crises, ...).

The project's ambitions are:

- 1. To integrate children's rights into our organisational structures and working cultures as a foundation on which youth organisations (should) stand.
- 2. To develop concrete recommendations for transnational youth work in Europe, which can be used by multipliers and volunteers in the partner regions and beyond.
- 3. Reflecting on and further developing our own youth work practice in relation to the "European Youth Goals".
- 4. Establish and deepen stable transnational partnerships that form the basis for future cooperation in the transnational field (e.g., ESC, youth exchanges and camps).

METHOD

Having an evaluation-process on a transnational level will enable us to widen our perspectives beyond the local contexts and help us in our task to foster an understanding of transnational identity and active European citizenship within the education and training of young people. In addition to that, working together on a multilateral project will support us in developing concrete recommendations for transnational youth work in Europe, which can be used by multipliers and volunteers in the partner regions and beyond.

Therefore, the main aim is a horizontal one: **EVALUATE** and strengthen our common values as youth actors in Europe, support civic **ENGAGE**ment and **EMPOWER** young people to participate in transnational contexts. With our plan to evaluate each other and work towards an integration of those rights into the

organizational sphere, we hope to support and develop best practices for educators and youth workers in their daily work, by designing a quideline for human rights-based methods.

PRODUCTIONS

The aim was for the partners to analyse and evaluate the reflection processes and strategies linked to children's rights and the European youth objectives of each partner. Through a mutual evaluation of work and practices including the integration of these rights in the organisation of projects, the aim is to support youth workers in their daily work by designing:

- 1. a **BOOKLET** to methods based on the above-mentioned rights.
- 2. a coeducational/co-creative **TRAINING** for and by youth workers (from 18 years of age).

These productions aim to develop the competences of youth workers in transnational non-formal educational contexts. These tools aim to consolidate international partnerships in the framework of future cooperation.

THE PROCESS

Visits & workshops

The whole process behind the project and behind this booklet started with a planning meeting for all the partner organizations involved and continued with 4 international visits to get to know the work of each partner organization in detail and to see the particularities of their work with young people and children. In order to be able to retain more information and to be able to share it with colleagues back in each country we decided to create an evaluation guide that would help us to get a better understanding of the work and local context of each organization involved, in order to borrow and adapt good praxis examples.

Design of an evaluation guide

The evaluation guide started as a document with questions that came up from brainstorming on the topic: what would I like to discover during the visit? How is the organisation we are visiting working with children's rights and European Youth Goals? In which context is the organisation working: target groups, methods, misson, local and national policies etc. Since many questions can be asked, we decided to sum them up into a section of 5 open questions. This way every single visitor has the individual space to ask specific questions in one of those areas and to inquire upon things that could be interesting from their perspective as well.

We tested the Evaluation guide for the first time in France.

It came up that the open questions were for some partners too broad and contrary to what we thought, we decided to add sub-questions in order to specify the 5 areas more and better support the process. This new version was tested when visiting Slovenia. It worked better and it was kept that way for the upcoming visits, in Romania and Germany.

See the Evaluation guide in Annex.

TARGETS AND OBJECTIVES

For NGOs

- Reflection and co-educative process, as well as the creation of future strategies for all partners (e.g., publication of the final report)
- Having strong international partnerships for future cooperations
- Publicity for the project and partners as European actors (e.g., publication of the final report) as basis for networking

Creation and publication of two guidelines:

- 1. Cooperative evaluation: children's rights and Youth Goals in (the partaking) youth organisations
- Training tool: how to train youth leaders so they can ground their work on children's rights and enable children to learn about their rights

More globally

- Open access publication of training materials, which will be made available on the Erasmus+ project platform.
- Promotion of European values, Youth Goals and increased visibility and knowledge of children's rights.
- Experience of practical European solidarity and citizenship

For youth workers

- Help the participating youth workers to share our best working practices connected to EYGs and children's rights,
- Establish new transnational partnerships and deepen the existing ones, which again forms the basis for future cooperation in the transnational field (ESC, transnational youth exchanges/trainings etc.).

And also, to offer them:

- Qualification, gaining international and transnational skills and receiving Youthpass as recognition etc
- Empowerment to implementing the results also for children/youth under 18 by organizing youth exchanges, summer camps etc. that are based on children's rights and enable them to learn about Youth Goals.



THE CONSORTIUM

Jugendwerk der Awo Hessen-Süd, Germany

Jugendwerk der AWO is an NGO originally established as the youth wing of the worker welfare organization "Arbeiterwohlfahrt", short AWO. Jugendwerk has many independent organizational subdivisions around Germany, at the national, regional, and local levels. Hessen-Süd is concerned with the southern region of the state of Hessen. Jugendwerk's corner stone are its summer camps, where families who need it can pay a reduced price. There are trans-organisational meetings every few months where Jugendwerks around the country get together to discuss their guiding principles of sustainability, inclusivity, and solidarity.

https://www.jw-awo.de/

Drustvo Lojtra, Slovenia

Lojtra is an independent NGO which was established in 2014 by a group of local activists. Based in the small town of Litija, the organisation seeks to address the needs of the local population, and particularly to provide opportunities for young people. Lojtra works closely with local schools and array of other organisations to carry out regular youth exchanges, volunteer programs and events, all with the underlying goal of educating people, enriching lives and developing the local area with positive, long-lasting effect.

https://www.drustvolojtra.si

Curba de Cultură, Romania

Curba de Cultură is a fully private entity, an NGO established in 2012 following a needs analysis in the community of Izvoarele. Ten years later the organization is managing 3 youth centres out of which one is a mobile youth centre, a local volunteering programme, and international volunteering programme, a Rural Youth Festival and a series of projects and programmes on local, national and international level. http://evs.curbadecultura.ro/

Ligue de l'enseignement Nouvelle-Aquitaine, France

Ligue de l'Enseignement Nouvelle-Aquitaine (LENA) is the regional union of the 12 departmental federations of the Ligue de l'Enseignement. It works with young people in an approach of education, access to citizenship and leisure (culture, sport, holidays, training, complementary actions to the national education...).

https://liguenouvelleaquitaine.org/

II. YOUTH FIELD IN EUROPE

II.1. Definitions

Reference(s): (Siurala, 2019)+ (United Nations, 1989)_+ (UNICEF, n.d.)

In the European Union young people are defined as the category of population with ages between 13 and 30 years old, a wide and general category that matches most of the age categories defined by each of the member states. The age group definition is pretty much the only one that can be universally valid. Thus, a clear age group definition helps with shaping policies and support for young people and moreover to have a common understanding upon who are the young people. Additionally, one can notice an overlapping between children and young people in terms of age, between 13 and 18. Those should fall under both categories and be protected and supported in both.

In the countries of our 4 partners the young people are defined as:

Germany - up to 30 years old Romania -between 15 and 35 years old Slovenia - between 15 and 30 years old France - between 18 and 30 years old

II.2. EUROPEAN FRAMEWORK

2022-2025 - PRIORITIES OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE YOUTH SECTOR Reference(s): Council of Europe + Youth Sector Strategy 2030 - Engaging young people with the council of Europe's values

At European level, the Council of Europe has a department focusing on youth and especially on: capacity building of young multipliers (youth leaders and youth workers); financial support to

youth civil society development, as well as quality development and standard setting in the field of youth policy. In order to fulfil the strategy for 2030 set at European level, the Council has 5 specific priorities for the period 2022-2025, as follows:

- Revitalising pluralistic democracy
- · Young people's access to rights
- Living together in peaceful and inclusive societies
- · Youth work
- Intergovernmental co-operation in youth policy

Thus, the work of stakeholders and specialists in the field should contribute to the European Youth Strategy and follow its priorities.

IL3 EUROPEAN YOUTH GOALS (EYC)

Reference(s): (Youth Goals, n.d.)

During the 6th cycle of the EU Youth Dialogue – Youth in Europe: What's next? – which took place in 2017/2018, young people were called to gather their voices and contribute to create the EU Youth Strategy 2019 – 2027 to serve the EU youth programmes. Around 50,000 young people took part in the survey in 2018. Based on this survey, the 11 Youth Goals were formulated with concrete sub-goals under scientific supervision. All EU countries were involved in the development of the Youth Goals and support them.

The Youth Goals have been included in the <u>EU Youth Strategy</u>. The EU Youth Strategy should contribute to realising this vision of young people by mobilising EU level policy instruments as well as actions at national, regional and local level by all stakeholders.

#1 CONNECTING EU WITH YOUTH
#2 EQUALITY OF ALL GENDERS
#3 INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES
#4 INFORMATION & CONSTRUCTIVE DIALOGUE
#5 MENTAL HEALTH & WELLBEING
#6 MOVING RURAL YOUTH FORWARD
#7 QUALITY EMPLOYMENT FOR ALL
#8 QUALITY LEARNING
#9 SPACE AND PARTICIPATION FOR ALL
#10 SUSTAINABLE GREEN EUROPE
#11 YOUTH ORGANISATIONS & EUROPEAN
PROGRAMMES

II.4. CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD (CRC)

Reference(s): (Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, n.d.) + (United Nations, 1989)

To guarantee the rights of all children

In 1989, political leaders committed themselves to building a world fit for children: the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) was unanimously adopted by the United Nations General Assembly. It was the first time in history that an international text explicitly recognised children under 18 as full-fledged beings with social, economic, civil, cultural and political rights - fundamental, binding and non-negotiable rights.

The consensus is unprecedented: with 195 states, it is the most widely ratified human rights treaty in history. Today, only the United States and Somalia are missing. More than just a symbolic text, the Convention is legally binding on the signatory states, which commit themselves to defend and guarantee the rights of all children without distinction and to be accountable for these commitments before the United Nations.

54 articles

The Convention focuses on four fundamental children: principles concerning nondiscrimination, the best interests of the child, the right to life, survival and development, and respect for the child's views. Three optional protocols have been added to the main text. The Convention has 54 articles that cover all aspects of a child's life and set out the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights that all children everywhere are entitled to. It also explains how adults and governments must work together to make sure all children can enjoy all their rights. Every child has rights, whatever their ethnicity, gender, religion, language, abilities or any other status. The Convention contains 54 articles, stating that every child has the right to:

- have a name, a nationality, an identity
- be cared for, protected from disease, to have an adequate and balanced diet
- go to school
- be protected from violence, maltreatment and all forms of abuse and exploitation
- be protected from all forms of discrimination
- be free from war and violence
- shelter, relief and decent living conditions
- play and leisure
- freedom of information, expression and participation
- have a family, to be cared for and loved

The importance of children's rights

- Children are individuals. Children are neither
 the possessions of parents nor of the state,
 nor are they mere people-in-the-making; they
 have equal status as members of the human
 family.
- Children start life as totally dependent beings. Children must rely on adults for the nurture and guidance they need to grow towards independence. Such nurture is ideally found from adults in children's families, but when primary adult caregivers cannot meet children's needs, it is up to the State as the primary duty bearer to find an alternative in the best interests of the child.
- The actions, or inactions, of government impact children more strongly than any other group in society. Practically every area of government policy – from education to public health – affects children to some degree. Short-sighted policymaking that fails to take children into account has a negative impact on the future of all members of society.
- Children's views should be heard and considered in the political process. Children generally do not vote and do not traditionally take part in political processes. Without special attention to the opinions of children as expressed at home and in schools, in local communities and even in governments children's views go unheard on the many important issues that affect them now or will affect them in the future.

- disproportionate, and often negative, impact on children. Transformation of the family structure, globalization, climate change, digitalization, mass migration, shifting employment patterns and a shrinking social welfare net in many countries all have strong impacts on children. The impact of these changes can be particularly devastating in situations of armed conflict and other emergencies.
- The healthy development of children is crucial to the future well-being of any society. Because they are still developing, children are especially vulnerable more so than adults to poor living conditions such as poverty, inadequate health care, nutrition, safe water, housing and environmental pollution. The effects of disease, malnutrition and poverty threaten the future of children and therefore the future of the societies in which they live.
- The costs to society of failing its children are huge. Social research findings show that children's earliest experiences significantly influence their future development. The course of their development determines their contribution, or cost, to society over the course of their lives.

III. YOUTHWORK

III.1. DEFINITIONS

Reference(s): (Council of Europe, n.d.) + (European Commission, 2015)

Characteristics

A youth worker is a person that is working directly with young people, facilitating activities specially designed to support young people's development through non-formal and informal learning. Youth workers can be professionals, volunteers, civil workers or even people working for NGOs.

"The main objective of youth work is to create opportunities for young people to shape their own futures". (Council of Europe, n.d.)

Youth work is understood as an umbrella term that contains different kind of activities, created to help youngsters to develop in different aspects of their life such as personally, active citizenship, politics, culturally and what usually we understand as getting integrated into society. It can be organized by different people and in different ways; from institutions to individually or in teams. It belongs to the nonformal or informal learning domain, which happens mostly after school.

Youth work represents the "Actions directed towards young people regarding activities where they take part voluntarily, designed for supporting their personal and social development through non-formal and informal learning."

However, the working context of youth work is independent and can be done differently by the organization that is founding it, organizing it or the one that is delivering the actual activities and it is also independent of the setting and circumstances in which it is taking place.

Youth work can be identified in many different shapes. The most common are:

- · Youth centres
- Youth projects
- Outreach/detached youth work
- Informal youth groups
- Youth camps/colonies
- Youth information
- Youth organisations
- Youth movements

These different shapes of the youth work, together with the working definition can be done by different entities such as municipalities, NGOs, and can be done in different spaces like youth centres, schools, churches...

Youth work in Europe

"Each country in Europe has its own history and traditions of youth work, ranging from long-established professional youth work provisions to relying mostly on voluntary youth work structures and youth organisations." (Council of Europe, n.d.)

Youth work in Europe started around the 18th century, with the Industrial Revolution. Youngsters from small villages moved to bigger ones or to cities. This started an emergent youth culture in urban areas. In 1844 the first organization whose sole aim was to address the needs of young men was founded in London.

Youth work in the European environment wants to show the diversity of youth and to create conditions for youth work to grow and prepare itself for the future. It is delivered by various actors and organisations such as youth clubs, youth centers and youth associations.

III.2. NON-FORMAL EDUCATION

Reference(s): [1]Recommendation 1437 (2000) on non-formal education + [2] Youth work and non-formal learning in Europe's education landscape

Education can be divided into 3 categories according to the methods that are used, the expected learning outcomes and the circumstances surrounding it. These categories are formal, non-formal and informal education.

Formal education is how we refer to education in institutions such as schools and universities. Here, learning is hierarchically structured and chronically graded; learning outcomes are set in a systematic fashion and proofs of learning are officially upheld.

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Informal education, on the opposite side, is not held in any institution and not systematised in any sense - it happens spontaneously, without any learning outcomes decided in advance. Informal language learning might happen when a young person plays World of Warcraft with foreigners over the internet - they did not set out to learn the language, their learning was not structurally supported or accredited, but nonetheless they learned, incidentally, as they played.

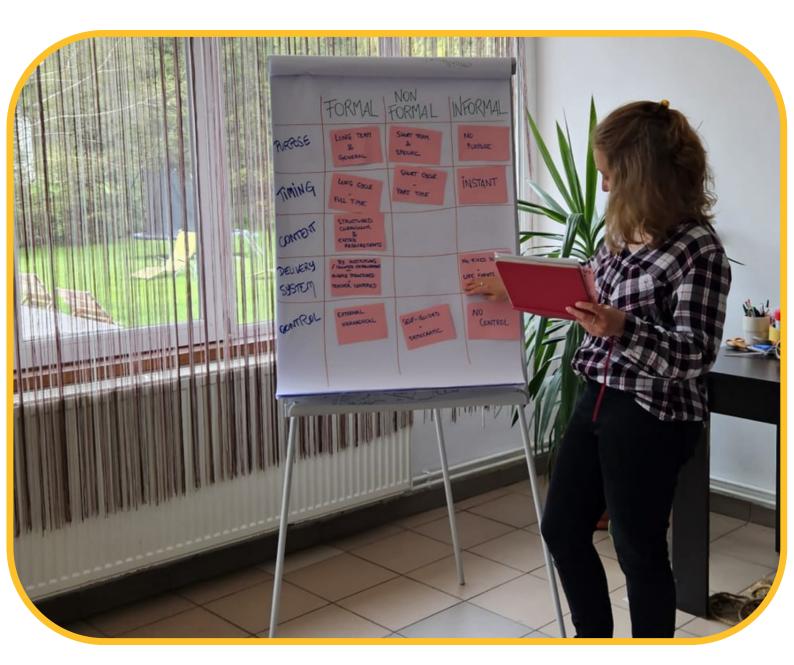
Non-formal education takes a third way – learning activities are organised and serve to fulfil identifiable learning objectives or outcomes in some sense. However, these outcomes are not recognised by educational authorities, and learning is not structured in a hierarchical or chronical fashion.

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe recognises non-formal education as "an integral part of a lifelong learning concept that allows young people and adults to acquire and maintain the skills, abilities and outlook needed to adapt to a continuously changing environment. It can be acquired on the personal initiative of each individual through different learning activities taking place outside the formal educational system." The Assembly furthermore describes non-formal education as "an essential part of the educational process" and recognises "the contribution that can be by non-governmental organisations made (NGOs) involved in non-formal education." [1]

Although the non-formal education activities and programmes delivered by youth work NGOs may indeed work in harmony with formal education as part of a holistic educational process, the two educational approaches also differ in crucial ways, which highlight the critical importance of the youth work field:

"Learning is a dynamic process. The institutions are stable...But youth work can be carried out in many settings. It can take place in urban settings — streets, parks and parking lots — or in the countryside; or in schools, youth clubs, prisons, cafes or shopping malls...It is not tied to a single context. Its flexible nature differentiates it from other public services such as schooling and healthcare, which require facilities where professionals can function. The flexibility of youth work allows youth workers to engage with young people in everyday situations where young people are learning." (Kilakoski, 2015)[2]

The non-formal education undertaken in youth work can take place any time, anywhere, and so can be tailored to any situation in which we find young people. Due to this inherent flexibility, non-formal education can be used to work directly on the specific needs, issues or interests of the target group of young people, whoever they are, wherever they are. It is in this quality that we find the power of non-formal education to empower and enable every young person regarding their rights, responsibilities, and possibilities in European society.



IV. EMBLEMATIC PROJECTS PER COUNTRY

IV.1. CHILDREN'S REPUBLIC (JUGENDWERK)

Description

"Kinderrepublik" is the largest summer camp that Jugendwerk offers. In it, branches of the organization all across Germany travel together to the island of Föhr, where more than 100 children aged 10-13 and around 30 counsellors spend ten days together. It is not only large, but also with a special concept: children have a relatively active say in what their activities will be.

The days are split 50/50; in one half of the day, the children do activities within their branch that are planned by their own counsellors; and on the other half, there is a series of activities that the children themselves have proposed and can choose whichever one they want to join. At the beginning of the summer camp, the children make general suggestions for activities that they can do: "Beach activities", "Drawing", "Sports", "Excursions" ... and then in a general assembly the children decide which activity they would like to spend their time on.

The democratic concept extends to many areas of the summer camp. Every branch selects two children to be its delegates, and there is a daily evening meeting where the children can discuss things that they want to change. Two examples of this in the 2022 edition of this camp:

- On the first morning, the children were woken up one hour before breakfast time with loud music. This decision was not very popular, and on the first assembly the children voted that they did not want to be woken up with music again.
- All meals provided during the camp were vegetarian. Many children opposed this and asked to have one meat meal at some point during the camp. The camp leadership was at first unsure, since the vegetarian meals were an important principle, but after internal discussion it was agreed that the vote of the children should be respected and followed upon. There was one meal with meat at the end of the week, with a vegetarian option also provided.



Objectives

The main objective is to make a more democratic summer camp, where children have more of a say in how things are run. The intention is to, in turn, encourage them to voice their opinion, come to common agreements, and continue using these democratic tools when they grow up.

Context

Jugendwerk holds democratic values very close in its core principles and it is a frequent topic in its activities, be it for children or for older youngsters. Kinderrepublik is one of the more overt examples of this.

Points concerned by the project

#3 INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES

#4 INFORMATION & CONSTRUCTIVE
DIALOGUE

#8 QUALITY LEARNING

#9 SPACE AND PARTICIPATION
FOR ALL

#10 SUSTAINABLE GREEN EUROPE





Steps

Financial resources + Logistic

Jugendwerk Hessen-Süd's financing comes through different sources. Each camp has a different price, and this amount contributes to the funding of the camp. Kinderrepublik ranges from the full price of 440 euro per participant to a reduced fee of 150. Additionally, there is government funding through a specific ministry ("Federal Ministry of Families, Seniors, Women, and Youth") that allocates funds to activities dedicated to children and youngsters. Jugendwerk accepts donations through the program "Kindern Ferien Schenken" ("Give the children a holiday"), which in turn are used to fund price reductions. The mother organisation AWO dedicates some funds to JW as well.

The different costs of the camp are split among participating branches. The overall functioning of the camp is run by the branch of the Nordrhein-Westfalen federal state. The expenses the campgrounds (rental, materials) are ultimately paid by them. The travel costs to the camp and back (bus, train, boat) are paid by each branch separately, as not all reach the island through the same route. In 2022 JW Hessen-Süd split their travel costs with JW Württemberg, since they follow the same travel route due to their geographical proximity. The budget each organisation has for on-site activities (excursions, for example) is also administered by the central coordinators. Previously each branch set its own budget for it, but some branches have more financial means

than others. This led to uncomfortable situations when some could spend more money on activities while others were more restricted in their possibilities. In 2022, all branches had the same budget and were functionally equal.

Partnership

This summer camp is organized together with other regional subdivisions of Jugendwerk. Some send less children, some send more. For all of Jugendwerk's summer camps there is a weekend get-together where the counsellors have a chance to plan the activities in person. In addition, Kinderrepublik has a specific weekend meeting with representatives of all the other JW branches involved. This meeting is led by the people who will be coordinating the camp onsite. The objective is to get everyone on the same page, gathering material lists, as well as building a good atmosphere among the counsellors. In this reunion there are also discussions about camp organisation and how to improve the camp based on the experiences of previous years. A key discussion is the topic of democratization and how many choices the campers are actually allowed to make. Some counsellors favor more decision-making on the children's hands, while others see more restrictions as necessary.

Mobilisation of public

There are social media posts done about this summer camp, and it is frequently mentioned when describing Jugendwerk's activities since it is a relatively innovative concept.





IV.2. TINEMOBILUL (CURBA)



Description

Tinemobil was created by a group of local youngsters, starting from their own involvement in different social and cultural activities for young people in their rural communes in the Teleajen valley lead by Curba de Cultură. One of the main reasons to start this project was the low participation from youngsters staying in remote villages. Their main obstacles are the limited public transport opportunities and the lack of spaces like youth centers. The closest alternative would be the cultural centers, but those are mainly focused on promoting the local culture.

The youngsters identified a set of needs expressed by their peers living in the rural area:

- Geographically accessible activities that do not include commuting outside the village.
- Relevant activities, something other than folk dances, something that gives them learning opportunities.
- Economically accessible activities (free of charge)
- Empowering activities that offer space for young people to propose ideas themselves as well as informing them about their civic rights and opportunities.

With Tinemobil, Curba decided to go out of the place where youth work is happening to reach the youngsters they did not address before. Since they didn't have experience with this kind of activities, Curba were prepared to offer a wide range of possibilities. What is more, following the principle of detached youth work, Curba constantly gives young people a voice, lets them propose what they would like to get from the Mobile Youth Centre and adapt their content accordingly.

The main goal of this project is to provide young people living in rural areas access to information, social, cultural and educational opportunities through street-based youthwork, using a fully equipped vehicle, to reach numerous places all around Teleajen valley.

While implementing the project with the local youngsters involved, Curba started seeing good outcomes from the activities and decided to create a new follow-up project, but this time involving international volunteers. This is how Tinemobil – Fury Road was created. With a team of 6 international volunteers and various local volunteers, Curba kept doing activities in the different villages located in Teleajen valley, offering the youngsters a huge range of different activities.

Objectives

- To offer free access to youth activities for 1000 young people with fewer opportunities living in rural areas in the superior basin of the Teleajen valley;
- · To raise awareness about opportunities in European Solidarity Corps and Erasmus+ fewer among young people with geographical opportunities and ensure newcomers in programmes such as youth exchanges, volunteering, other local solidarity projects, and youth participation projects;
- To raise awareness on youth work and the benefits of it in the mainly traditional society of the superior basin of the Teleajen valley;

 To promote active citizenship among at least 500 young people with fewer geographical opportunities and contribute to higher rates of participation in elections.

Context

 Curba operates in a rural area where youngsters have difficulties accessing freetime activities with other youngsters, either because a lack of spaces for it, or of means of transport to get to them.

Points concerned by the project Children's rights

- N°2 No discrimination
- N°3 Best interest of the child
- N°12 Respect for children views
- N°13 Sharing thoughts freely
- N°14 Freedom of thoughts and religion
- N°16 Protection of privacy
- Nº17 Access to information
- N°29 Aims of education
- N°30 Minority, culture and religion
- N°31 Rest, play, culture, arts
- N°32 Protection from harmful work
- N°33 Protection from harmful drugs
- N°34 Protection from sexual abuse
- N°35 Protection of sale and trafficking
- N°42 everybody must know children's rights

European Youth Goals

- 2. Equality for all genders
- 3. Inclusive societies
- 4. Information & constructive dialogue
- 6. Moving rural youth forward
- 8. Quality learning
- 9. Space and participation for all
- 10. Sustainable green Europe
- 11. Youth Organisations & European Programmes





Steps

Financial resources + Logistic

- At the moment Tinemobilul is financed through a series of projects: an ESC volunteering project and an Erasmus+ project focused on mobile youth work. Other sources of financing planned to use in the future: another small scale partnership in Erasmus+ and local funding programmes.
- Logistically Tinemobilul needs 1 driver and 2 youth workers for 2-3 activities (trips) per week. In order to increase the number of activities it would require a second team of 1 driver + 2 youth workers.

Partnership (local, national, European)

- At the beginning of the season Curba sign partnership agreements with the owners of the spaces to visit with Tinemobilul. Most of these spaces are public so the agreements are done with with local authorities, but some of them are owned by cultural centres, schools or private entities. Curba usually present a calendar to them, sign it, and if changes are needed, they are done with their agreements as well.
- At European level Curba have partnerships that involve Tinemobilul such as: a study visit on mobile youth work and part of a KA2 project implemented in partnership with a Latvian organization.

Mobilisation of public

for promoting Tinemobilul and its activities
 Curba use: posts on Facebook, stories on
 Instragram, posts on Discord and posters
 that are put in the villages about one week
 before each activity.





IV.3. (RE)CONNECTED (LOJTRA)

Description

A 6-day international youth exchange for 30 young people aged 14-16 from Germany, Romania and Slovenia was conducted. Young people learned teamwork and project management skills, to the point where they could start on their own to propose ideas for various projects in their own communities, to implement these ideas and to seek help youth workers when they need it. The majority of activities were carried out outdoors, with at least 6 hours a day outside (regardless of the weather) and young people were equipped with key skills for safe leisure time in nature. Loitra conducts many similar exchange activities with frequent partners – this is one good example.

Objectives

 Improving the key competencies of young people, including those with fewer opportunities: content orientations within the curriculum: teamwork, project management, intercultural learning;

- Promotion of participation in democratic life: young people learn how to turn ideas into projects, how to work with them and participate in the democratic life of the local community. Furthermore, they also learn who they can be in this kind of activity:
- Active citizenship: young people learn to perceive and articulate their needs, interests, problems. They learn to make decisions about what they want to do with them, how to recognize them as key for the local environment, and address them in the form of projects;
- Intercultural dialogue: young people compare and adapt their beliefs, views, experiences and ways of acting to someone from a different background;



 Social inclusion and solidarity: through cooperation, exchange of personal views, intensive international exchange, constant awareness of doing things, young people develop empathy, and as a result, solidarity and the ability to realize the inclusion of those different from themselves in their society.

Context

Lojtra's work is concerned with the personal and professional development of young people in our local, rural environment. The organisation is primarily funded through Erasmus+ and similar European programmes, and is entirely independent. As such, it follows a needs-based approach in developing their activities, and have an emphasis on working internationally. For (RE)connected, the following needs were identified amongst the local youth, and local communities in general, which led to the development of this project:

- The need for more active young people in the local communities of all partners. As partners, young people are wanted who will work actively in groups and co-shape the local youth scene, while at the same time developing their competencies in selected areas.
- The need for strong connected communities of young people. Today, loneliness among young people is already a problem. Various statistics can be pointed to, for example, the PISA 2018 survey.

Excessive use of social networks, cellphones, lack of personal contact lead to various initially negative feelings and then mental problems that are not talked about much but are present among young people. Strongly connected support groups are an element that can successfully address the issue of social exclusion and subsequent loneliness.

- The need for contact with nature. Today, people are less and less in touch with nature. A variety of studies, research, sources indicate how important it is to spend your free time actively in nature.
- The need for contact between young people and other cultures. We live in Europe and in a globally extremely connected world. Young people need contact with other cultures, with another reality, in order to even roughly understand what is happening around them. The time when exploring the world was meant for students is over. Students must be able to actively interact with different cultures. Insofar as they meet another culture for the first time at the age of 22, the idea of some proactive cooperation is pointless. If they are used to interculturality from before, they will be ready in their student years to take a step forward in directions of active cooperation with other nations in addressing a wide variety of issues. In addition, it is of utmost importance that this contact with another culture always brings a better awareness of one's own culture. Despite the fact that globalization is on the rise, full awareness of who we are and what our culture is should not be departed from. Only in this way can we fully appreciate others.

Points concerned by the project Children's rights

- N°2 No discrimination
- N°3 Best interest of the child
- N°12 Respect for children views
- N°13 Sharing thoughts freely
- N°14 Freedom of thoughts and religion
- Nº16 Protection of privacy
- Nº17 Access to information
- N°29 Aims of education
- N°30 Minority, culture and religion
- N°31 Rest, play, culture, arts
- N°32 Protection from harmful work
- N°33 Protection from harmful drugs
- N°34 Protection from sexual abuse
- N°35 Protection of sale and trafficking
- N°42 everybody must know children's rights

European Youth Goals

- 2. Equality for all genders
- 3. Inclusive societies
- 4. Information & constructive dialogue
- 5. Mental Health and Wellbeing
- 6. Moving rural youth forward
- 8. Quality learning
- 9. Space and participation for all
- 10. Sustainable green Europe
- 11. Youth Organisations & European Programmes

Steps

Organisation

The project consisted of one youth exchange in Romania from thirty 14-16 year olds from 3 different countries. Participants with fewer opportunities were targeted – namely those from a weaker economic background, greater geographical isolation, and some from problematic social backgrounds.

All participants were involved in all parts of the project throughout. All activities were free as were the preparations for the project (meetings at schools once per week for 14 weeks, each meeting lasting 90 minutes). There were meetings with parents, who were assured that the youngsters had everything they need included. All this with the aim of including the participants as best as possible, regardless of their economic background. To address the problem with geographic isolation, all youth were addressed where they are - in their local environments. All transport was provided, and all issues coordinated with parents to make sure everything was taken care of.

Youth workers were responsible for providing adequate support to young people with potential social problems. For this purpose, experienced youth workers from each organization participated in this project. They had worked with their group for a long time before the exchange and got to know the participants well during the activity. Daily reflection and evaluation, which is always carried out in the team of youth workers and coaches at all international events, was also crucial. Opinions and remarks noticed during the day were exchanged. The team then decided when to address certain behaviors or how to continue, whether to make any adjustments, so that the activities really addressed the needs present among the young people at a given time.

Financial resources

 The project was awarded the entirety of its funds by Erasmus+ under the category of KA105 – Mobility of Youth.

Partnership

Loitra's partners in this project were:

- · Roter Baum Berlin, Germany
- Curba de Cultura. Romania

Lojtra and Curba de Cultura have been working together since 2014. Together haveparticipated in approx. 15 activities and approx. 25 project applications in 4 different EU countries. They similarly focus on rural youth and on developing the competences of minors as active citizens in their local communities. This was the first cooperation with Roter Baum. The collaboration was initiated by Curba. Loitra proposed the project, and the Romanian partner proposed the inclusion of the German one, because they had previously cooperated. We immediately contacted them and identified a common desire to establish an informal network of organizations that work long-term with minors and want to include them in international learning mobility.

Mobilisation of public

- Before the exchanges, parents were engaged through meetings where the project aims, organisation and logistics were explained in detail.
- Local schools were engaged as ways to recruit young people – teachers provided connection with pupils and parents and schools gave the space for Lojtra to work with the young people in preparation for the exchange.
- The young people made personal presentations to their peers after the exchange. Each national group presented to at least 30 young people.
- Youth workers presented the project to other organizations that work with young people in the local environment.
- Pictures, videos and posts were made in Lojtra's social media channels.





IV.4. JNAE (LIGUE DE L'ENSEIGNEMENT)

Description

Since its creation in 2007, "Les Jeunes Néo-Aquiatins s'Engagent" (JNAE) has been an annual regional meeting taking place over a weekend in October. Designed by young people for young people, it aims to promote and support the voice and commitment of young people. It is a space for exchanges and debates on current issues, encouraging a better understanding of societal challenges, through methodological contributions and resources, and through meetings between young people and elected officials as well as experts.

JNAE is a space for expression and the emergence of ideas by young people and for young people. The event reflects their commitment, their projects, their desire to shape a more understanding, more human and more supportive society.

Objectives

The JNAE aims to promote and support the voice and commitment of young people. They are a space for exchanges and debates on current issues, encouraging a better understanding of societal challenges, through methodological contributions and resources, and through meetings between young people, elected officials, experts and associations.

- Encourage young people to reflect and debate on social issues;
- Strengthen and enhance the commitment and consultation of young people;
- To encourage meetings and exchanges between young people and elected representatives, experts and associations;
- To bring out ideas and proposals that can have an impact on public policy actors.

At the end of the event, various works are produced (reports of discussion workshops, videos, photographs, writings, songs, plastic productions, etc.). All of the work is presented in an evaluation document given to all the participants, guests and partners of the action. It is also distributed to the actors and stakeholders of youth policies at the territorial and national levels. The production and restitution of work carried out during the JNAE highlights the voice and commitment of young people.

Context

Youth work by LENA

LENA has an initial and historical vocation: youth, whether or not they are in a school environment and at all stages of their development. It seeks to promote the civic education of young people, their ability to live together and to take responsibility, to get involved in their area of life. It is therefore involved in:

- The field of popular education
- The local development framework
- The domain of citizenship and engagement
- The field of animation of its network to develop and promote measures in favour of young people

The association's project gives priority to actions in favour of youth, sustainable development and the social economy. Its action aims to:

 Propose and pool tools to facilitate the organization and operation of projects (information on systems, methodology, meetings with partners);

- Facilitate meetings between young people and youth public policy actors;
- Set up spaces for exchanges between young people on their practices and their projects;
- Stimulate a regional dynamic and pool resources both between committed young people and between the various partners; show that the diversity of their actions is expressed on a common territory;
- Show the volunteer sector in general that it is possible to mobilize young people around social commitment from a dynamic system that involves young people in its implementation.

Points concerned by the project

Nº2 No discrimination

N°3 Best interest of the child

N°12 Respect for children views

N°13 Sharing thoughts freely

N°14 Freedom of thoughts and religion

N°15 Setting up or joining groups

Nº17 Access to information

N°22 Refugee children

Nº23 Children with disabilities

Nº29 Aims of education

N°30 Minority, culture and religion

Nº31 Culture, arts

European Youth Goals

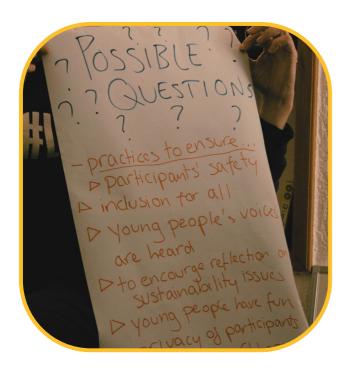
- 8. Quality learning
- 9. Space and participation for all
- 4. Information & constructive dialogue
- 3. Inclusive societies
- 10. Sustainable green Europe
- 11. Youth Organisations & European Programmes

Steps

Organisation

All 12 departments of the Nouvelle-Aquitaine region are involved in the event. In 2017, the JAE became the JNAE, Jeunes Néo-Aquitains s'Engagent. The steering committee of the action is composed of young volunteers from New Aquitaine, accompanied by professionals education/youth from the departmental federations and the regional union. The committee meets 5 times a year to draw up and evaluate a 2-day program:

- Animations (dynamic games, ice-breakers), methodological and pedagogical contributions, reflection workshops,
- Meetings and exchanges with local public and private actors,
- Artistic creation workshops (plastic arts, music, theatre, radio, photography)





The programme of the JNAE is drawn up by the young volunteers. The young people are solicited and consulted to create the content of the 2 days reflecting their situations and expectations.

Financial resources & Partnership (local, national, European)

- Funding of the action: Conseil Régional Nouvelle-Aguitaine and Erasmus+ France
- Operational implementation: 10 young volunteers, Departmental federations & Regional Union (12 employees)

Mobilisation of public / audiences

The event is free, subject to registration and open to all. It is aimed at young people aged between 18 and 30 (students, European volunteers, civic service volunteers, association activists, employees, jobseekers, young people setting up a business, volunteers, the curious,

those interested in and/or concerned by politics, etc.) living in all the departments of the Nouvelle-Aquitaine region.

The event brings together a wide variety of young people in terms of social, geographical and professional background, but also in terms of training, education, life path and commitment. It includes the participation of elected officials, experts and associations working in the New Aquitaine region, in order to bring richness, diversity and relevance to the debates and reflections carried out with the young people.

Each education/youth referent in the region mobilises young people for meetings, youth gatherings and training. Mobilisation is also carried out digitally: the event has its own social networks (<u>Facebook</u> - <u>Instagram</u>)



V. ANNEXES

V.1. REFERENCES

EU YOUTH STRATEGY

EU Youth Strategy is the framework for European cooperation in the youth field for 2019-2027 based on the Council Resolution of 26 November 2018. The Strategy is set to improve the situation of young people in Europe by creating more and equal opportunities for them in education and the labour market and by promoting their active citizenship, social inclusion and solidarity.

EU youth cooperation is intended to make the most of the potential of youth policy. It fosters youth participation in democratic life; it also supports social and civic engagement and aims to ensure that all young people have the necessary resources to take part in society.

3 MAIN OBJECTIVES

The EU Youth Strategy focuses on three core areas of action, around the three words: <u>Engage</u>, <u>Connect</u>, <u>Empower</u>, while working on joined-up implementation across sectors.

WHITE PAPER ON YOUTH

The main objective of the White Paper on Youth is to propose a new framework for cooperation among the various actors in the youth field in order to better involve young people in decisions that concern them.

Reference(s): National Policies Platform | YouthWiki

V.2. YOUTH POLICIES PER COUNTRY

Youth policy in Germany

(Klinzing, 2018)

Youth work in Germany is documented to have been active since the 19th century, with a hiatus during Nazi time when it was strictly controlled. It is based on voluntariness, participation, accessibility to all backgrounds and flexibility. Different approaches are applied: genderspecific, anti-racist, intercultural, media- or culture-related, subject- or group-oriented. Current issues that affect young people and youth policy are, for example: demographic change: digitalisation; migration/young refugees; children's rights and protection; radicalisation/extremism, global and developments. The legislative framework is the Kinder- und Jugendhilfegesetz. Other fields that are considered as "youth work" are programs that include 'social education assistance for the promotion of school' and 'vocational training'.

This field is not especially well recognized or well-paid. It is not formally defined, though it is included in the curriculum of social work and social pedagogy studies. There are different certifications and tests to prove experience in youth work, but no general formally recognized framework. Germany is, however, part of European Union initiatives on youth work, including Erasmus+ and Youthpass. Funding can come from many sources, such as national, regional or local sources or private sponsors but mostly from the Kinder und-Jugendplan des Bundes

(the youth plan of the German government). Organizations can also apply for EU funds.

The Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth is responsible for setting broad goals for youth policy in the country. The federal states have a more active competence in this policy, while local actors undertake the actual planning and execution of youth work. There are different types of associations: ecclesiastical, trade union. humanitarian, socialist, ecological, LGBTQ+... There are no specific quality requirements for youth work, and organizations usually develop their own evaluation mechanisms. There is a card (the "Juleica") which certifies that a person has undergone the necessary training to be a youth leader. The international dimension of youth work has great importance in Germany. Exchange between many European countries is supported by the German government, as well as with other continents.

Youth policy in Romania

There has been a law dedicated to young people since 2006, until then most of the dispositions related to young people were just the ones mentioned in other laws. Then in 2021 the law was revised and renewed in order to be adapted to the current contexts and needs of young people. The law on youth builds the framework in which institutions and organizations that work with young people should do their work, compels local and national authorities to provide support and funding to young people. According to the Romanian law, young people are those people between the ages of 14 and 35.

In Romania the youth sector is governed by the Ministry of Family, Youth and Equal Opportunities, represented at the local level by Youth Directorates. These institutions have attributions in both supporting the young people

through their programmes, to implement the National Strategy on Youth and propose new policies, as well as supporting the youth organizations and organizations working with young people.

Besides these institutions there are some other representative bodies that work at a national and regional level while being independent from the authorities:

- The Youth Council of Romania a national and international representative body for organizations and federations working with young people;
- The National Youth Foundation and County Youth Foundations – bodies representing young people at a national and local level.

Furthermore, according to the law local authorities should determine and support the creation of local youth councils that would consult and advise on any matter regarding young people in the community. While there are a series of tools and bodies that can improve the situation of young people in Romania, progress is slower than in other European countries.

Youth policy in Slovenia

Until 2009, Slovenian youth policy had had a strong vertical dimension; it gained a new impetus through the EU Youth Strategy that promoted holistic youth policy. With the adoption in 2013 of the national youth programme stipulated by the Public Interest in the Youth Sector Act, Slovenia is heading towards a more holistic and intersectoral youth policy.

The public authority responsible for the field of youth and realisation of the public interest in the youth sector at the national level is the Office for Youth of the Republic of Slovenia. It is an independent body within the Ministry for Education, Science and Sport since 1991. The responsibilities of the Office for Youth are specified in more details in the Act on the Public Interest in the Youth Sector (ZJIMS) adopted in 2010. The Act also defines some terms, such as youth policy and youth work. It is the first law which systematically regulates the youth sector and also serves as a basis for the adoption of the National Programme for Youth as the key strategic document comprehensively specifying the development of public policies intended for youth until 2022.

The Office for Youth prepares regulations and measures for the youth sector. It promotes nonformal learning processes to increase competencies of youth in their transition from childhood to adulthood. It develops suitable mechanisms for supporting youth organisations and organisations for youth which are of key importance to promoting active youth participation.

In 2009, the Council of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for Youth was established, a consultative body that proposes measures and monitors the consideration of youth interests in various public policies at the national level. The Council gives the Government and the responsible ministries incentives suggestions for the regulation of youth matters and, in particular, promotes youth participation in these processes. The Council that comprises representatives of youth organisations and various ministries on an equal basis is chaired by the Minister of Education and Sport.

The Office for Youth, in cooperation with other public authorities and local communities, monitors the situation of youth and the effects of measures targeting youth in order to ensure their needs and interests are being well considered in policymaking.

The national youth policy follows the following principles:

 democracy; plurality; integrity; intergenerational solidarity; equality; non-discrimination and justice; multiculturalism; intercultural dialogue; volunteering; promotion of a healthy lifestyle; respecting life and the environment, and the participation of non-governmental organisations in the management of public affairs.

The youth policy (in accordance with the Act on Public Interest in Youth Sector) is a harmonised set of measures of various sectoral public policies with the purpose of facilitating the integration of youth in the economic, cultural and political life of the community, as well as promoting support appropriate mechanisms developing youth work and operation of youth organisations, which is carried out in cooperation with autonomous and democratic representatives of youth organisations, as well as professional and other organisations.

SOURCE: Zupan, B. 2016. Country Sheet on Youth Policy in Slovenia. <u>link</u>

Youth policy in France

Social, professional and civic inclusion of young people along with protection and educational development of youth have long been key themes of French public policies. Although there is no definitive or permanent model for political strategy on youth, as its form very much depends on successive governments, youth policies are nonetheless a constant in public action, whether they are promoted by a ministry responsible for youth affairs or by the Ministry of National Education, all the more so as youth policies are not only decided at national and territorial (regional) level but are implemented at local level by the authorities départements concerned (regions, and municipalities).

Local authorities act in complementarity and interdependence with State policies in the implementation of youth policies, which relies on an overlapping of the various levels of public action and on interministerial, intersectoral and multi-partner operation. Youth polices have been the responsibility of the Ministry of National Education, youth and sports, which, in particular through its <u>Department for Youth, Non-Formal Education and Voluntary Organisation</u> (DJEPVA – Direction de la Jeunesse, de l' Education Populaire et de la Vie Associative), focuses on the design and implementation of youth policies.

Combating youth unemployment and the precariousness that affects some of France's young people is one of the public authorities' major concerns. It should be emphasised, however, that such phenomena do not affect all young people and do not have the same consequences on their individual life paths. Continued inequalities between young people themselves and the resulting fragmentation of French youth is another challenge to be taken into account in youth policies.

Overall, youth policies aim to

- Provide a quality educational offer;
- · Support integration trajectories;
- Promote a culture of commitment to encourage the emancipation of young people.

V.3. A PROCESS

As the basis for our work was the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which contains 54 articles, and the European objectives for youth, which number 11, the criteria for our evaluation guide were numerous. We therefore focused on the points/areas of work relating to the priorities and objectives of our respective associations. We have thus retained the following points:

Concerning the Convention on the Rights of the Child:

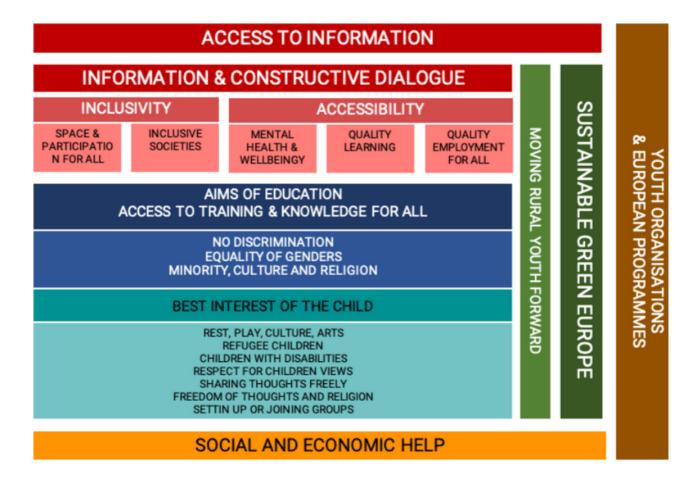
- N°12 Respect for children views
- N°13 Sharing thoughts freely
- N°14 Freedom of thoughts and religion
- N°3 Best interest of the child
- N°15 Setting up or joining groups
- Nº17 Access to information
- N°2 No discrimination
- N°30 Minority, culture and religion
- N°31 Rest, play, culture, arts
- N°22 Refugee children
- N°23 Children with disabilities
- N°29 Aims of education
- N°26 Social and economic help

Concerning the 11 European Youth Goals

- 6. Moving rural youth forward
- 8. Quality learning
- 9. Space and participation for all
- 4. Information & constructive dialogue
- 5. Mental health & wellbeing

- 7. Quality employment for all
- 3. Inclusive societies
- 10. Sustainable green Europe
- 11. Youth Organisations & European Programmes

This mind map provides an overall vision of youth work as perceived and experienced by the project consortium. It reflects all the points retained by the partners: links have been established between the ideas seen as the most relevant. Indeed, as some points of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the 11 European Youth Goals have the same objectives and intentions, it was then a question of crossing and linking the different ideas carried by the two texts.





V.4. WORKING DOCUMENTS

Evaluation guideline

Overview of your NGO

- What is the history of your organization?
- · How did all start?
- What is your mission and the values you pursue?
- What are your funding sources?
- Do you have local partners? How do you work with them?
- Is there any funding coming from the community?
- · How is your organization structured?
- · How are the decisions taken?
- How much independency each youth worker has?
- What is your organizational strategy for the next 5 years? What are your plans?

European Youth Goals

- When planning your activities besides the needs analysis what else are you taking into account?
- Are you pursuing reaching/ protecting/ providing any of the children's rights?
- How do you blend all these in activities?
- Is there any specific Youth Goal that you focus on when planning and implementing activities?

Quality standards

- How do you plan your activities?
- Do you do needs analysis? What methods and tools do you use for that?
- What resources do you have in your organization?
- · What is the plan in training staff?
- What safety and measures do you have in place?
- Do you have a code of conduct?
- · What are its main elements?
- What laws do you have regarding on safety, working with youngsters, organizing activities etc?

Public relations

- How do you make your work visible and known?
- What channels do you use?
- How do you reach your target group?
- Do you have any strategy?
- How do you reach out to new partners?
- How do you reach out to new funding sources?

Children's rights

- When planning your activities besides the needs analysis what else are you taking into account?
- Are you pursuing reaching/ protecting/ providing any of the children's rights?
- How do you blend all these in activities?

Trainning plan

"HOW TO DESIGN CHILDREN'S RIGHTS-BASED NON-FORMAL EVENTS THAT CONTRIBUTE TO THE REALISATION OF THE YOUTH GOALS " $^{\prime\prime}$

Day 1	 Icebreakers, Energizers, get to know each other, teambuilding activities Presentation of the training, context, agenda Expectations, Fears, Contributions Youthpass
Day 2	 Presentation draft of the booklet Tasks Youth work & Non-formal Education Tools and methods
Day 3	 Visit activities (Tine Mobil, Youth Center) Starting working and planning the activities in 4/5 small groups
Day 4	Planning activities
Day 5	 Implementation of the activities Starting evaluation (if there's time)
Day 6	 Feedback + Evaluation activities + tips and tricks for the booklet Evaluation of the training (Mentimeter) Completion of Youthpass

^{*}Important to include talking about the Youth Pass before the training finishes

^{**}Things can be pushed

^{***} Include an international night

