

The 3rd European event of EGL

4-6 June 2019

Square – Brussels Convention Centre (Mont des Arts, 1000 Bruxelles)

The report of the event



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EUROPE GOES LOCAL

Supporting Youth Work at the Municipal Level

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This summary captures a three-day programme of presentations, panel discussions and interactive dialogue at the 3rd European event of the Europe Goes Local (EGL) project. A particular attention is put on the matters related to the European Charter on Local Youth Work, one of the hallmarks of the project.

THE OBJECTIVE OF THE EVENT AND THE STORY OF THE PROJECT

The 3rd European event of Europe Goes Local brought together approximately 200 actors from municipal level youth work to learn from each other, plan new collaboration activities and have exchanges about the quality development of local youth work with a new support tool, the future European Charter on Local Youth Work. More concretely, the event served as a platform for discussion, deliberation, exchange of ideas and presentation of good practices. The participants represented a diverse range of expertise from the local youth work area coming from 111 different cities and towns and 28 European countries (See the **Annex** about the division of participants by different criteria).

About the Europe Goes Local project

The EGL network project was created in 2016 as the initiative of 22 National Agencies of the Erasmus+ Youth in Action programme and their 4 partners, the InterCity Youth network, the POYWE network, the European Youth Forum and the partnership between the EU and the Council of Europe. As a result of the past three years, a broad European network has been established in which more than 150 municipalities, local youth NGOs, umbrella organisations and individual experts cooperate via different international activities.

The first three years of EGL have been characterised by various activities such as two European conferences, trainings, seminars, study visits and research. Besides offering peer-learning to the members, the network endeavoured to achieve a common goal, to create a European Charter on Local Youth Work by a broad and inclusive consultation process. The 3rd European event in Brussels was to launch the Charter and to kick-off the network-activities that will support the implementation of the Charter, making the Charter a widely-used and comprehensive tool.

The Charter was not created through a political process therefore it is not a political document but rather a methodological tool that addresses a wide spectrum of youth work professional with different types of responsibilities, from municipal services all the way to civil society organisations.

In present times youth workers and young people in general face turbulent times in Europe, values and principles are put under question, however this threat provides an opportunity for a policy



window to reinstate, update, enhance those values and principles which were upheld by the European youth sector in the last decades. Europe Goes Local targets local youth work acknowledging that European subsidiarity and cooperation is increasingly prominent, even when it comes to simply provide learning, upskilling and exchanging practice opportunities; thus today, a shared platform that sustains exchange, is of a paramount importance.



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THE AGENDA OF THE EVENT

Facilitators of the event: Tea Jarc & Darko Markovic

4 June (Tuesday)

9:00-12:00 Optional free-time activities in Brussels

12:00-14:30 Registration of participants

13:00-14:30 *Lunch*

14:30-16:00 **Opening of the event**

A welcome session when we discover who is present in the room and explore our common regarding the event.

Key-notes:

Our 3-years journey with Europe Goes Local by *Koen Lambert*, Director of JINT vzw, the Flemish National Agency of the Erasmus+ Youth in Action programme

The story and content of the European Charter on Local Youth Work by *Jonas Agdur*, Chair of InterCity Youth and Steering Group member of Europe Goes Local

16:00-16:30 *Coffee break*

16:30-18:00 **The role and importance of youth work in local communities. Panel discussion.** Members of the panel: *Floor van Houdt*, Head of Unit, European Commission, Youth, Volunteer Solidarity and Traineeships Office; *Loes Rutten*, Board member, European Youth Forum; *Karin Peham-Strauß*, Managing Director, Jugendzentrum Perg (AT); *Carlos Mascarell Vilar*, Policy Officer on Governance and Citizenship, Council of European Municipalities and Regions; *Jan Vanhee*, European and International Youth Policy – EU Youth affairs attaché, Department for Culture, Youth, And Media/Flanders-Belgium; *Claudius Siebel*, Policy coordinator, JUGEND für Europa

18:00-18:30 *Refreshment break*

18:30-19:30 **Launching the Charter and celebrating local youth work together** facilitated by the Belgian Improvisation League

19:30- *Dinner*



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5 June (Wednesday)

9:00-9:30 Opening the day: reflections on the previous day, aims and content of the day ahead.

9:30-11:00 How can European programmes and policies impact youth work at the local level? – examples from municipalities, projects, NGOs, public institutions by

Jenny Haglund, General secretary, KEKS; *Linda Johannessen*, Culture and leisure manager/Area manager at City of Gothenburg;

Age Toomla, Chief expert in the Unit of youth work quality development, Estonian Youth Work Centre; *Agnese Lorence*, Project coordinator, Agency for International Programs for Youth (Latvia).

11:00-11:30 *Coffee break*

11:30-13:00 **8 parallel peer-learning sessions and a discussion about the use of the Charter**

PARTICIPATION:

Nowakowski Stéphanie and *Laszlo Földi*: Democracy Reloaded- a toolkit to strengthen democracy at local level by empowering municipalities

JES: *Youssra Tahiri* & *Jessica Vosters* - HoGent – University College Ghent: Griet Verschelden: JES Yota!"

INCLUSION:

Priscilla Sheehan: A local organisation embedding inclusivity in youth mobility.

Diana Pettersson Svenneke and *Pepe Herrera*: To further and promote - A solutogenic approach to open youth work

YOUTH WORK POLICY:

Barnabás Gulyás and *Boglárka Huszthy*: Youth participation based youth policies in Eger"

THE EUROPEAN DIMENSION IN LOCAL YOUTH WORK:

Tajana Broz: Creating enabling environment for youth in local community – case study of Pregrada

LEARNING FOR YOUTH WORK:

Hilde Van Dyck and *Wim Van Leeuwen*: The VDS-approach on learning during our courses to become a qualified 'animator' or 'chief animator'.

QUALITY DEVELOPMENT:

Jonas Agdur and *Borut Cink*: Sweden + Slovenia = True! Creating a common ground for systematic quality development.



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13:00 - 14:30

Lunch

14:30-16:00

8 parallel peer-learning sessions and a discussion about the use of the Charter

PARTICIPATION:

Igor Korovin: Laut! A Project towards more participation

INCLUSION:

Stiina Kütt: Collaborative NEET-youth support service model

YOUTH WORK POLICY:

Conny Meyne: "Anchoring International Youth Work in local political structures and in the Civil Society"

Barnabás Gulyás and András Déri: Realities and opportunities of local youth work in Hungary

THE EUROPEAN DIMENSION IN LOCAL YOUTH WORK:

Finnish EGL Working Group: European Values

LEARNING IN YOUTH WORK:

Aaron Fallon: Skills Summary – The easy way to track and develop your life skills

QUALITY DEVELOPMENT:

Mervi Ahola and Merja Hovi: SPAM – self and peer assessment model

Rita Bergstein: Let's take a moment! Exploring the ETS competence model for youth workers and its link to local youth work

16:00-16:30

Coffee break

16:30-17:00

Working in national teams

17:00 – 19:00

Networking session

19:00

Dinner



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6 June (Thursday)

- 9:00-9:30 Opening the day: reflections on the previous day, aims and content of the day ahead.
- 9:30-10:30 Embracing change at the local level. Key-note by
Thomas Andersson, Spokesperson on Youth, Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe
- 10:30 – 11:00 Reflections and discussion in stakeholder groups
- 11:00-11:30 Coffee break*
- 11:30 – 12:00 Reflections and discussion in stakeholder groups
- 12:00 - 12:30 Working in national teams - Designing the future road map of EGL
- 12:30 – 13:00 Conclusions and closing
- 13:00- Lunch*



The content of the plenary sessions

Our 3-years journey with Europe Goes Local by Koen Lambert, Director of JINT vzw, the Flemish National Agency of the Erasmus+ Youth in Action programme

Koen Lambert pointed out that Charter is not a political document yet it addresses all stakeholders including decision-makers and those responsible for policies. The Charter is the backbone of the project that creates a new platform for discussion, learning and development in youth work. Mr Lambert reminded the participants that the first mention of the Charter within the project context was at the Kick-off Event of Europe Goes Local (2017, Ljubljana). Two rounds of Europe-wide consultations were carried out about the content of the Charter to guarantee that the diverse practices of local youth work would be reflected by the Charter. The presentation has also highlighted that besides the work on the Charter, Europe Goes Local also embraced numerous peer-learning activities such as trainings, seminars and study visits.

The story and content of the European Charter on Local Youth Work by Jonas Agdur, Chair of InterCity Youth and Steering Group member of Europe Goes Local

Jonas Agdur emphasized that the strength of the European Charter on Local Youth Work is that it was created via a participatory, bottom-up process and thus it is owned by the European youth work community. The Charter was developed in the midst of the pressure on youth work to be clear, to define itself and produce measurable outputs. The next milestone on the pathway of working with the Charter is to develop a toolkit that will entail guidelines on following the principles of the Charter, a collection of reference documents, good practice examples and a system for self-assessment.



The role and importance of youth work in local communities. Panel discussion.

Members of the panel: *Floor van Houdt*, Head of Unit, European Commission, Youth, Volunteer Solidarity and Traineeships Office; *Loes Rutten*, Board member, European Youth Forum; *Karin Peham-Strauß*, Managing Director, Jugendzentrum Perg (AT); *Carlos Mascarell Vilar*, Policy Officer on Governance and Citizenship, Council of European Municipalities and Regions; *Jan Vanhee*, European and International Youth Policy – EU Youth affairs attaché, Department for Culture, Youth, And Media/Flanders-Belgium; *Claudius Siebel*, Policy coordinator, JUGEND für Europa

The aim of the panel was to show a tableau of institutional viewpoints as well as the opinions of members of civil society organisations.

Floor van Houdt began by reminding us about the crucial intermediary role of the network of National Agencies and SALTO centres between the European and local levels. These actors are facilitators of the exchanges between various stakeholders, making the European policies and funding sources accessible for organisations all over Europe.



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Loes Rutten believes that youth work is an often underestimated tool for tackling various societal challenges (e.g. radicalism). The quality development of youth work might help to achieve a better recognition of this field. Providing European learning opportunities for youth workers is one way to support quality development.

For Karin Peham-Strauß, youth work is a tool for creating space for young people enabling them to make change, learn about themselves and the surrounding environment and society. The value of the Charter is that it codifies the practices of youth work and youth work policy. To guarantee its broad use, it has to be translated into all official languages of the European Union.

Carlos Mascarell Vilar said that access to information and European funding is still not provided adequately for smaller organisations and municipalities. Large scale project such as Europe Goes Local has a multiplier role creating bridges between the different levels and bringing the European messages and information to the local reality. The promoters of smaller scale ideas have to learn how to lobby for their initiatives and knowledge exchange must also be in the core of Europe cooperation in the youth field.

Jan Vanhee underlined the importance of the fact that the Charter was developed and now owned by the European youth work community which carried out this work without any obligation simply replying the needs of the stakeholders. He views the Charter as a guiding instrument in youth work. He called the attention of the institutions on how crucial it would be to create a permanent and stable platform for exchanging practices, supporting learning and sharing information in youth work, helping a more equal access to the resources and knowledge all over Europe.

Claudius Siebel stated that Europe Goes Local is a good example of what the EU/Erasmus+ Youth in Action can offer to the local level. Mr Siebel sees National Agencies as supporting bodies in the course of the implementation of the Erasmus+ programme. They also have to reach out to new target groups to fulfil their role.





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How can European programmes and policies impact youth work at the local level? – examples from municipalities, projects, NGOs, public institutions by...

Jenny Haglund, General secretary, KEKS

The presentation introduced the initiative of the KEKS network. The network consists of 63 municipal youth departments within and beyond Sweden and its initiative called LogBook is a system for the documentation and follow up of activities carried out by youth organisations. Information is easily accessible from the tool and they can be linked to the aims of the organisation or an activity. The tool supports reflective practice and it can be used both for an organisation or a project. The tool is currently in regular use in Sweden, Finland, Romania, Estonia and Slovenia. A constant technical upgrade is ensured by the KEKS network.



Linda Johannessen, Culture and leisure manager/Area manager at City of Gothenburg

The city of Gothenburg created its youth work policy and plan during a 2-year-process. The new plan and policy guarantees a common approach towards youth work in Gothenburg for the first time. The city created a working group to write these documents. The 1st year was used by the stakeholders to get to know each other, build trust and analyse the needs and wants at stake, the 2nd year was actually spent to develop the concepts mostly using international and European papers and policies,

adapting them to the local context. These served as a source of principles and definitions for the local plans which can turn European policies into concrete actions. The plans of Gothenburg consist of three main sections: Governance and Management; Working with young people; Preconditions of youth work.

Age Toomla, Chief expert in the Unit of youth work quality development, Estonian Youth Work Centre;

Estonia has a national youth policy and a strategical plan called Youth Field Development Plan. This is a framework for the whole country and it was developed in collaboration with various stakeholders such as umbrella organisations, researchers from different universities, the Estonian youth council, the Association of Youth Workers and several others. However, the key stakeholders who implement the strategy are the local municipalities which also work in close cooperation with their partners, the local NGOs that carry out youth work at the local level and the service providers of the local structures. European funding schemes and policies play a crucial role in developing the systems of youth work in

Estonia. The Structural Funds of the EU (namely the European Social Fund) provides resources in Estonia for the training of youth workers and EU policies are the backbone of national level policy making.

Agnese Lorence, Project coordinator, Agency for International Programs for Youth (Latvia)

The Latvian National Agency of the Erasmus+ Youth in Action programme has created and implemented a 1-year-long model project within Europe Goes Local. The aim was to stimulate change in local youth work via providing regular, needs-based support for the municipalities. This sub-project has been already implemented twice during the course of EGL. Seven municipalities were selected via an open call and these municipalities were invited to take a look at their work with young people in a systematic/strategic way. The approach was based on a four-module training. The first module was about the European and national youth policy and youth work framework and its link to the local level. The first module also tackled the question of mapping the needs of the target group and the stakeholders. The second module was to set priorities and create action plans on the basis of the needs analysis. The third module offered cooperation opportunities for the municipalities while the final module was to evaluate the results of the project-cycle. The project involved experts of the different topics and a mentor who followed and supported the municipalities. The members of the group attended international events within Europe Goes Local, they took part in study visits. Besides setting up brand new strategies, these municipalities also stepped into the area of European projects, applying for grants within the Erasmus+ programme.

Embracing change at the local level. Key-note by Thomas Andersson, Spokesperson on Youth, Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe

Mr Andersson referred to the pivotal responsibility of local authorities towards young people. Local authorities are the first level of public authority being in direct contact with young people. They are also the first level of public authority capable of having an impact on the attitudes of young people through quality youth work.

This position allows for regular exchanges with young people at municipal level and also for a well-established contact between elected representatives and youth workers. To boost the mutual communication between young people and municipal level stakeholders, local councils must invest in improving public access to information technologies through the existing public services such as youth centres, public libraries, media libraries, youth information and guidance centres.

Mr Andersson pointed out that the European Charter on Local Youth work proposes concrete guidelines in order to establish and maintain quality youth work at the local level. The Charter clearly states what the quality development of social youth work needs. A highly relevant recommendation for local





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authorities is that they should have an up-to-date mapping of local realities and needs in order to fulfil their role and respond to the needs of the local society. Each community is different — each community needs its own strategy.

Parallel peer-learning sessions and a discussion about the use of the Charter

The event offered 16 peer-learning seminar sessions in two rounds. Members of the EGL network presented good practices that might be adaptable for their peers. The sessions offered examples of practical tools, methods, systems, structures that have already been proved to be useful for the quality development in local youth work.

Below, please, find the themes, a connected paragraph from the text of the Charter and the description of workshops. These descriptions were provided by the presenters prior to the event.



PARTICIPATION:

“Youth work is value based, and the core principles that should guide it are that it needs ... to be created, organised, planned, prepared, carried out and evaluated together with young people.”

Nowakowski Stéphanie and Laszlo Földi: Democracy Reloaded- a toolkit to strengthen democracy at local level by empowering municipalities

Several NAs from the network of Erasmus+Youth in Action National Agencies, have launched a long-term process (2015-19) that establishes a **Strategic Approach** of working with local and regional public authorities in planning, developing, maintaining and reforming **democratic youth participation** structures for dialogue, co-decision and co-management.

A **research** has been conducted, in cooperation with several National Agencies of the E+ Programme, to identify this specific set of competences which have been compiled in a Map of Competences for engaging youth in municipal decision-making.

Since the **Map of Competence** was acknowledged by practitioners and National Agencies involved in this partnership and a number of activities (TC Democracy Reloaded, 2 SV Portugal and Belgium, 1 LTTTC in Italy and Estonia) have been run since 2015, the NA partnership has at its disposal a consequent number of **tools** (including the Map of Competence), **methods and practices** fostering the participation of young people in decision-making at local level which will be gathered in this toolkit.

During the EGL conference, we would like to introduce the **main results of this strategic approach** (the Map of competence and the assessment tools we have created).

Youssra Tahiri & Jessica Vosters - HoGent – University College Ghent: Griet Verschelden: JES Yota!

Since 2016, JES Brussels has been organizing a participatory trajectory at the request of the municipality of Ixelles (Brussels-Capital Region). This request was twofold: the reactivation of a public space that was perceived as dirty and unsafe by the residents and the set-up of a process for the construction and start-up of a new youth house. This includes various aspects of participation that we will elaborate on: embedding the youth house in the neighbourhood, reactivating the public space around, the link between indoor and outdoor space, providing support, creating a network of organizations and actors in the neighbourhood and the municipality to contribute to this project, involving children and young people at every step in the process to ultimately achieve co-ownership of the children and young people.

More information: <https://www.jes.be/pagina.php?id=yota> and <https://www.jes.be/blog.php?id=190>

Igor Korovin: Laut! A Project towards more participation

"Laut!" ('Loud!' in English) is a multifaceted youth participation project aimed to give adolescents a voice – with the understanding that our very heterogeneous group of participants requires a wide range of different approaches. It is supported and financed by the Youth Welfare Service Nuremberg, the Nuremberg Youth Council, and the Media Center Parabol. In our project we have different components focuses on bringing together adolescents of various social backgrounds with decision makers, policy makers and administrators of the city of Nuremberg and more.

<https://www.youtube.com/user/TVlaut>

<https://laut-nuernberg.de/>

INCLUSION:

"Youth work is value based, and the core principles that should guide it are that it needs ... to work actively inclusive and offer equal opportunities to all young people, regardless of background and living situation."

Priscilla Sheehan: A local organisation embedding inclusivity in youth mobility

Limerick Youth Service is Ireland's largest local Youth Service, and has prioritised embedding European Youth Mobility in our strategy, policy & practice.

This workshop will demonstrate, how a Local Youth Work service can embed European Youth Mobility opportunities, with an inclusivity focus.

Our input will introduce, our actions at local level, ensuring inclusivity in the planning, implementation & evaluation of Youth Mobility (including all members of the youth service, from service user to CEO).

We will introduce learning from our organisation's 'Youth Mobility Working Group' & new suite of tools that enable us to overcome barriers to inclusion.

More information: <http://www.limerickyouthservice.com/>

Diana Pettersson Svenneke and Pepe Herrera: To further and promote - A salutogenic approach to open youth work

Too often the argument for youth work is prevention of something bad that is expected to happen (drugs, criminality etc) There is a risk that that will influence the way one looks upon the young person – as a problem.

Our aim is the opposite. We will look for the possibilities in each person. The base for us at KC network* is a salutogenic perspective (promoting health). This means that the focus is on health and factors of health that makes us function optimally, to develop and to be happy. We look for the strong sides and the talents in every young person

We have created a material designed to be a tool for discussion about promoting youth work in everyday life. We will present this and offer some exercises and discussions in connection with this.

* KC network for open youth work, Sweden.

Stiina Kütt: Collaborative NEET-youth support service model

As youth employment and school-to-work transitions, as inclusion of disregarded youth in general, provide challenges across Europe, a set of international partners from embarked on a journey of meeting and analyzing different realities, collecting knowledge of methods and possibilities of working with NEET youth and young people in the risk, finding ways for collaboration between stakeholders and synergy between practices, transferring good practice examples between different contexts and countries. During this session, the participants will be introduced the functional profile of "Community Guarantee": a practice-based and evidence-based, realistic and up-to-date model describing the concept of effective and multi-dimensional support service for youth not in employment, education or training. The model encourages critical thinking about how to manage services for providing effective solutions and is a possible tool for designing/improving youth work services in multi-stakeholder partnership.

https://ank.ee/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/CommunityGuarantee.IO1_Final.pdf

YOUTH WORK POLICY:

"Youth work needs to be guided by a youth work policy that ... is developed: in cooperation between all relevant stakeholders, having clear roles and mandates. "

Barnabás Gulyás and Boglárka Huszthy: Youth participation based youth policies in Eger"

This would be more a presentation of a case study coming from Eger with municipality officers. In Hungary the youth work is not legislated properly therefore municipalities are somehow left alone to organize and maintain local youth work and to create youth policies. Surely there are main pillars at national level that at policy level are important issues for decision makers (such as family policy, employment etc).

At Eger there's relatively a good combination of involving practitioners, policy makers, researchers and young people on board in order to prepare, implement and evaluate youth policies at local level.

At our presentation we would like to give an insight to the youth policies at Eger by focusing on those projects that empowers young people to be involved in decision making processes.

Conny Meyne: "Anchoring International Youth Work in local political structures and in the Civil Society"

The process of strategy "Wiesbaden International" characterizes different stages of development. During this workshop, we will introduce different steps how to develop of a political Strategy to anchor the issues of (international) Youth work in the local Policy.

First, we will focus on the issue of Building a local professional network of different organisations and bodies, which is a main resource for supporting the political aims. We will go on with the Development of a professional and political strategy. We will discuss the Requirements for involving local responsibilities and political decision-making bodies (Magistrate's bill). We will also face how to win supporters from civil society and why it is important to build a strong local network across sectors. At last we will discuss the Strategic development after building a Strategy.

Barnabás Gulyás and András Déri: Realities and opportunities of local youth work in Hungary

During the implementation phase of the Hungarian EGL process we organized a focus group interview for Hungarian practitioners (mostly youth workers) at municipal level about how they see their work; what they think about the status of local youth work.

The results are confirming our common experiences in the field of youth work about the diversity and the ad-hock organization of it and also the missing or lacking expectations and conditions.

In our presentation and discussion we would like to show the results of the research by highlighting the needs for quality development in the organization of local youth work. We would also like to initiate a discussion among participants about their local realities to better understand their situation as well.

THE EUROPEAN DIMENSION IN LOCAL YOUTH WORK:

„The organisation and practice of local youth work needs ... to stimulate and support young people: to be open to the world and to engage in regional, national, European and international cooperation and projects”

Tajana Broz: Creating enabling environment for youth in local community – case study of Pregrada

Pregrada is a small town and municipality in Krapina-Zagorje County in Croatia with approximately 6,594 inhabitants.

Due to the rapid development of youth policies in the last couple of years and thus the general enabling environment for development of youth work and local youth policies, Pregrada is often being described as a rising-star of youth policy at the local level. Due to mostly the use of European projects, in Pregrada youth participatory budgeting started, the new youth and community center is soon-to-be-open and several Erasmus+ project in the field of youth are being conducted momentarily. Furthermore, this is one of the most propulsive small towns in Croatia when it comes to the youth sector and is an active member of the EGL consortium.

In the proposed workshops general development of youth policy and youth work in the city of Pregrada will be presented and explored ways of how to transfer this good practice in different contexts. By using non-formal methods, facilitators will explore how the EU funds can change the policy environment and help in youth empowerment as such.

Finnish EGL Working Group: European Values

How to put European Youth Strategy in action? In Finland we outsourced this to one drama work shop for unemployed young people (run by the municipality of Lahti). They have together with their instructors planned work shop called “European values” and this whole thing will be conceived by concept developer. The aim is to use active methods to understand how European Youth Strategy is linked to the municipal strategies. The process is still going on, so I am not able to write clear picture of the work shop. We are testing this work shop during the spring with a couple of municipalities and actually really take this in to action next August when there are regional youth work days for municipal youth workers.

The proposal is work shop with active methods on the topic of European values – how European Youth Strategy is linked to the municipal strategies. The aim is that all methods are also that kind, that they can be transferred to different realities.

LEARNING IN YOUTH WORK:

«The organisation and practice of local youth work needs ... to recognize, document and make visible young people’s non-formal and informal learning and to support the validation of achieved competences.»

Hilde Van Dyck and Wim Van Leeuwen: The VDS-approach on learning during our courses to become a qualified ‘animator’ or ‘chief animator’.

As the government for the Flemish community we support the non formal learning process of young volunteers who want to be a children and youth leader. Since 2015 we have a decree that offers a framework for the recognition of trainings and the certificates the youth work volunteers can get for learned competences. The process consists of 50 hours of learning in a non formal setting, 50 hours of practice and 4 hours of evaluation. The competences young people achieve during this process are

described in the decree. After finalizing the evaluation we make them visible for the youngsters in a certificate. After 3 years we are now evaluating the decree in cooperation with the youth sector.

Each year we train more than 1800 young adults to become a qualified 'animator' or 'chief animator' during a one week training course. These training courses take place all over Flanders and Brussels during different holiday-periods.

Our approach is very much based upon Kolb's Experiential Learning Cycle, where we focus greatly on experiencing and experimenting. The teachers of this course are also young adults who have a lot of experience as animators or chief animators on the animated playgrounds. Our approach focusses also a lot on the joy of playing.

Aaron Fallon: Skills Summary – The easy way to track and develop your life skills

Skills Summary is an easy to use online tool that helps young people measure the skills they gain when participating in youth work and volunteering, and communicate the value of these skills to future employers. It aims to support young people's learning and confidence, with a particular focus on those young people who may find traditional academic learning challenging. Skills Summary is the result of a collaboration between the National Youth Council of Ireland, Accenture and SpunOut.ie.

QUALITY DEVELOPMENT:

«The quality development of local youth work needs ... a clear and comprehensive system for documentation and follow up of outcomes, preconditions and work processes in relation to measurable indicators and aims.»

Jonas Agdur and Borut Cink: Sweden + Slovenia = True! Creating a common ground for systematic quality development.

In the framework of Europe Goes Local, Swedish and Slovenian National Agency, supported piloting of web based system from KEKS (Sweden) in three municipalities in Slovenia, with the aim, to support further development of quality youth work on local level in Slovenian municipalities.

The pilot is run in three municipalities and includes 21 youth centres, 80 youth workers and local youth decision makers. It equips them with tools for evaluating the outcomes of their work and support for further development.

Presentation will focus on the process and effects of implementing and using a common web-based system for documentation, follow up and development of quality youth work.

Mervi Ahola and Merja Hovi: SPAM – self and peer assessment model

Self and Peer Assessment Model has been developed by youth workers and for youth workers in Finland. Basic idea of the model is to examine youth work with help of assessment criteria, which are custom-made for different procedures and methods used in youth work. Most used criteria are the one made for open door activities (in youth centres). Criteria are also made e.g. for small group activities and camp activities. The model is used both in doing self-assessment and making peer auditions.



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Nöjd, T. & Siurala, L. 2015. Youth Work Quality Assessment. Self and Peer Assessment Model.
http://intercityyouth.eu/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/youth_work_quality_assessment_verkkoversio.pdf
http://ec.europa.eu/assets/eac/youth/library/reports/quality-youth-work_en.pdf

Rita Bergstein: Let's take a moment! Exploring the ETS competence model for youth workers and its link to local youth work

The ETS Competence Model for Youth Workers to Work Internationally is articulated around eight competence areas, and forms part of the tools area of the European Training Strategy. Its intention is to ignite, inspire, deepen and pushes processes with regard to quality development of youth work and capacity building – with a possible impact on individual youth workers, training and education institutions and organisations, and on a systemic level.

We would like to use this opportunity to also explore with experts and colleagues what is the added value of this model for local youth work, what is the connection with local youth work, with bringing Europe closer, and with the Charter. What can be the concrete synergies and processes to initiate?

Parallel to that, we hope to also be able to explore the 'political' or 'civic dimension' of youth work and of youth workers, since more and more practitioner and project organisers do request to have this dimension clearly tackled in the model.

ETS: <https://www.salto-youth.net/rc/training-and-cooperation/trainingstrategy/>

ETS competence model for youth wokers: <https://www.salto-youth.net/rc/training-and-cooperation/tc-rc-nanetworktcs/youthworkers-competence-model/>

Working in national teams, networking and discussions in stakeholder-specific groups

Besides the sessions for peer-learning, the event also offered a platform for planning future cooperation and project ideas. A discussion took place as well about the future implementation of the Charter and the needs of the group regarding the supporting toolkit. See the list of ideas for networking in **Annex 2** of this report.

Reflections in stakeholder-specific groups



In order to dive deeper into the topic, participants were divided into four stakeholder groups sharing their point of view on the implementation of the Charter and the Europe Goes Local project as a whole.

The representatives of international organisations and institutions agreed that the local level structures have an inevitable role in developing a strong and prosperous Europe and providing the necessary services for young people at the local level is one of the key factors to achieve this. Implementing

the principles of the Charter can significantly contribute to creating high quality and stable processes and systems in local youth work. This group suggested to initiate a competition amongst local authorities which implement the Charter. This competition would provide an overview of actions and activities happening in different parts of Europe while it would also allow the institutions to inspire each other with their work.

Researchers pointed out the importance of stakeholders' cooperation. The Charter does not address an exclusive group of stakeholders but it stresses that the aims set by the Charter can only be reached via the collaboration of all relevant actors. The group also reflected on the concept of the supporting toolkit. It expressed that the toolkit needs to contain vivid and concrete examples about how to use the Charter and suggested that the language is to be easy-to-read and the terminology should be unified and coherent in the different language versions.

The National Agency representatives agreed that Europe Goes Local had become a brand not only in developing local youth work but also as a model of successful cooperation between NAs, youth organizations and local authorities. It was mentioned that the next phases of Europe Goes Local should concentrate on the theme of how to use EU funds and programmes to boost youth work and youth policy at the local level.

The group of youth workers emphasized that financing and maintaining Europe Goes Local should be ensured via a dedicated line in the European budget for the long term continuation of the project. Regarding the toolkit, a bottom-up participatory approach is required to create a broad ownership of the toolkit.

The stakeholder-specific groups also discussed about the dissemination of the Charter. It was agreed that the first step is the translation of the Charter into national languages, carefully choosing the appropriate terminology that reflects the local realities. The Charter must have an attractive layout and to be widely shared via on- and off-line communication channels. European, national and local events are all suitable fora for presenting the Charter. The European level coordination should approach European and international organisations and the Trio Presidencies of the European Council.

- 6) There is a need to translate the toolkit, enable trainers to use it and facilitate the knowledge transfer to the local level.
- 7) The project should promote the use of the Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps funding schemes amongst the municipalities and local NGOs.
- 8) The project should dedicate its upcoming large scale event to the launch of the supporting toolkit of the Charter.

Recommendations for the development of the toolkit:

The toolkit...

- 1) should include good practices of local youth work, with a description about the structure of the local reality;
- 2) should contain tips and advice on how to make the first steps in the adoption and adaptation of the Charter;
- 3) needs to be user-friendly, easy to adapt in terms of communicating to different target groups;
- 4) gives tips on how to involve more young people in local youth work;
- 5) provides tips on quality assurance of local youth work;
- 6) is interactive and innovative;
- 7) answers the question "How can European programmes support the implementation of the Charter?";
- 8) should have a powerful set of questions which can be used at meetings, and set the agenda;
- 9) enables a pool of "experts/practitioners" who are willing to act as multipliers and disseminate the Charter, through the toolkit;
- 10) should provide data to create a European Award for youth workers;
- 11) contains elements of gamification, quizzes and self-assessment;
- 12) includes templates on how to design a workshop on the Charter;
- 13) involves youth groups and grassroots level organisations in its creation;
- 14) guides municipalities to understand/implement the Charter and value local youth work;
- 15) is to be combined with existing concrete systems, like the Swedish KEKS on youth worker assessment;
- 16) contains videos that showcase the relevance and importance of the Charter.

THE SUMMARY OF MESSAGES DELIVERED AT THE CONFERENCE

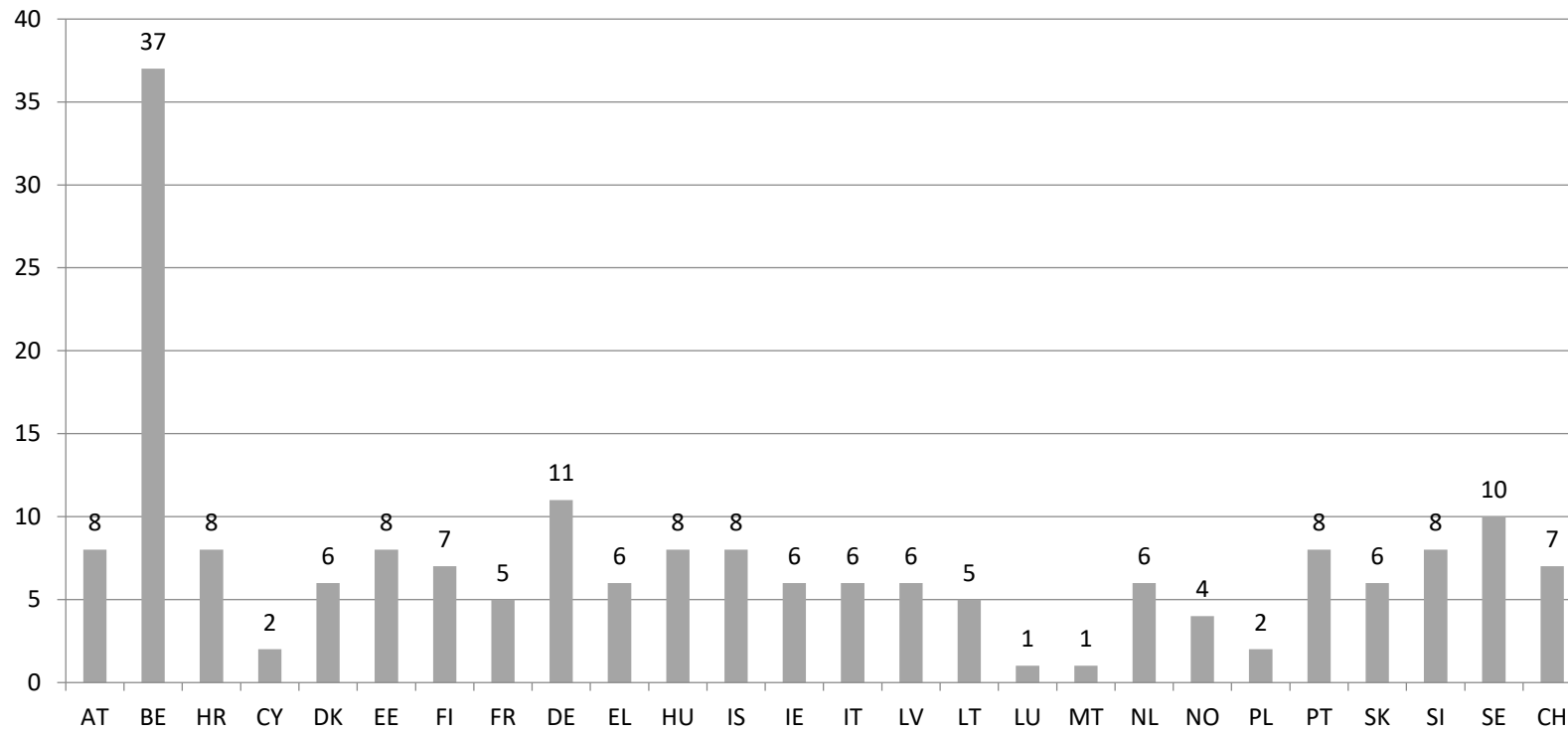
- The 2nd Youth Work Convention (2015) recommended the creation of a Charter on local level youth work as a response to the economic, political and social crisis youth work had to face in the past decade. The Europe Goes Local network decided to take this task and developed the European Charter on Local Youth Work. The Charter can aid the field to clarify its role and thus definition and right positioning in society.
- The Charter is the common output of the Europe Goes Local project, a result of networking, peer learning and brainstorming. It sets the grounds for an increased recognition of local level youth work.
- The main strength of the Charter is that it was developed via a participatory approach. The Charter belongs to the European youth worker community due to its involvement in the creation process through two consultation rounds and European conferences.

- The Charter is not a political document but it also addresses policy-makers. Besides being a practical guide, it is also an adequate tool for lobbying and advocacy at all levels (European, national, local). One of the aims of working with the Charter might be to influence legislation.
- Launching the Charter is not the closing moment of the project, rather the first step of on a path working with the Charter.
- The implementation of the Charter is to be supported by an on-line toolkit that will comprise good practice examples, reference documents, guiding questions for discussion and an assessment tool.
- Defining the legislative framework for youth policy and youth work is at the competence of the Member States of the European Union. The EU can provide opportunities for learning, development and exchanging experience, where programmes like Erasmus+ through SALTOs and National Agencies, play a key role as intermediaries between the EU and the local level. The Charter is bringing a new wave of energy to developing quality in youth work. It raises topics and matters that are also part of the European policy agendas while the role of National Agencies transforms from simply administering and managing the Erasmus+ programme implementation to supporting quality development processes.
- Challenges regarding the implementation of the Charter:
 - Local level youth workers often do not have access to information on EU funding. Also, small scale local initiatives struggle with finding financial resources.
 - Channels, platforms and occasions of knowledge-exchange are not known and available to a broad circle of professional in the youth field.



ANNEX 1: The division of participants according to different criteria

Participants by country of residence

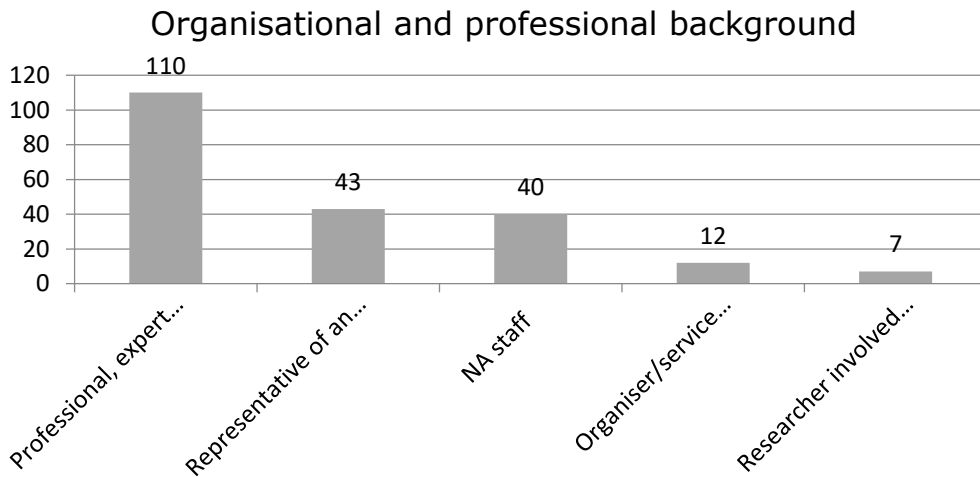




EUROPE GOES LOCAL

Supporting Youth Work at the Municipal Level

192 participants representing more than 100 organisations



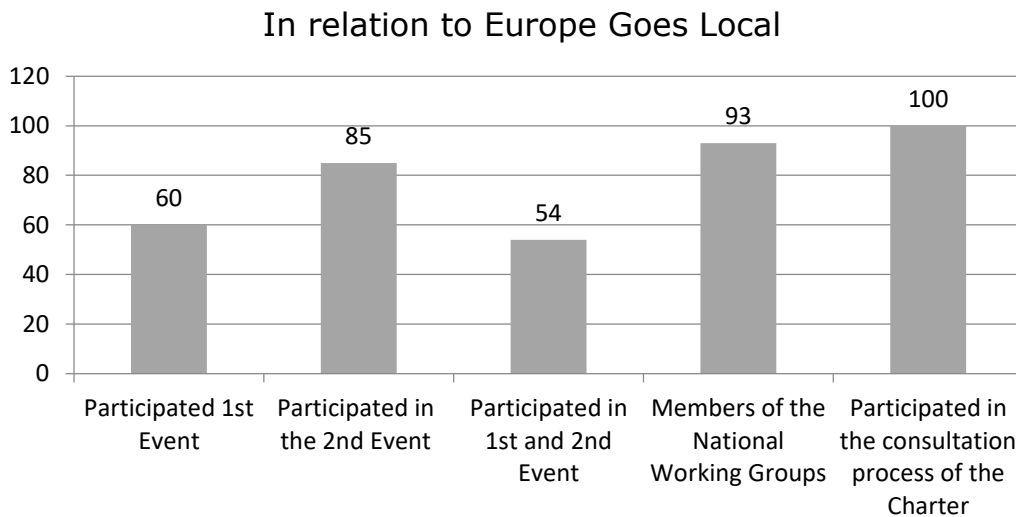
Professional, expert working in municipal level youth work - 90

Representative of an international NGO - 43

NA staff – 40

Organiser/service provider of the conference - 12

Researcher involved in studies on municipal level youth work – 7

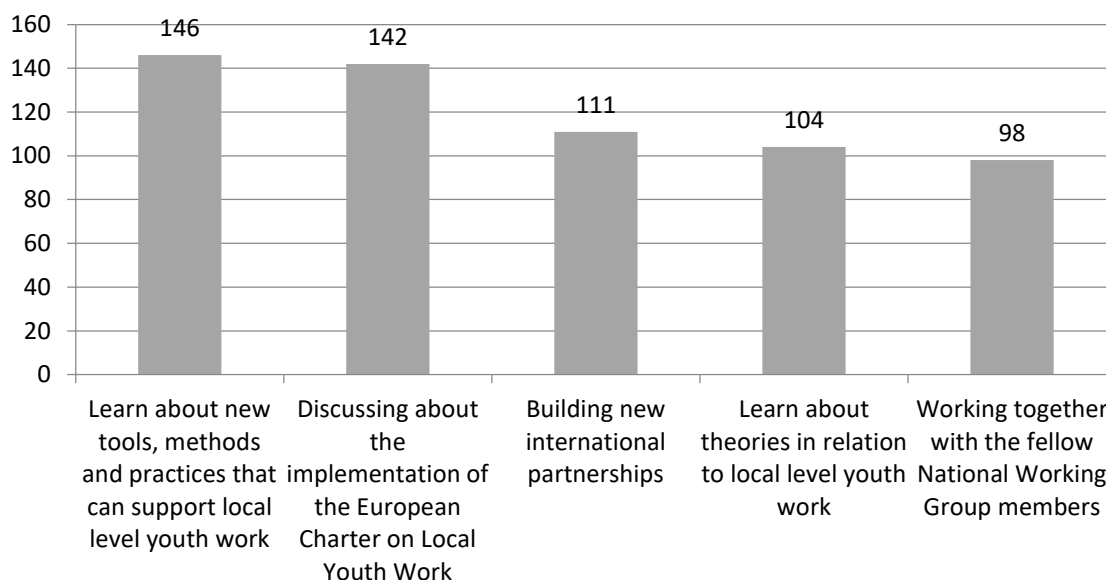




EUROPE GOES LOCAL

Supporting Youth Work at the Municipal Level

Interests about the 3rd European Event



ANNEX 2: Ideas and themes for future collaboration, projects and networking

- Networking with the European Youth capitals on how to connect Europe with local youth work
- Developing a youth-participatory budget (Croatia, Greece, Malta, Italy)
- Training course on Lobbying for youth work (Germany, Estonia, Italy)
- Project on how to embed European values and policy aims into local level initiatives (Germany)
- Sharing practices about the methods of monitoring in youth work (Estonia)
- Strategic work for LGBTIQ rights (Sweden)
- Conference on mainstreaming human right education (Estonia)
- Providing youth work for young refugees at the local level (Belgium-FL)
- Digital youth work (Estonia, Cyprus)
- Study visits:
 - Carrying out youth work at the local level (Lithuania, Italy, Slovenia, Croatia)
 - Street and mobile youth work (Lithuania, Germany)
 - Youth work and mental health (Lithuania, Estonia, Cyprus, Poland, Belgium-FL, Ireland)
 - Studying the Icelandic model of children and youth work (Norway, Croatia)
 - Exchange between youth councils (France)
Learning about the model developed in Gothenburg