

Limerick youth service



# “Who’s Included?”

*A Local Organisation Embedding Inclusivity in Youth Mobility.*

The Experience of Limerick Youth Service

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# Overview of Presentation

- ▶ Limerick Youth service 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.

Do It For You  
Tortona 2009



# Inclusion Ice Breaker



On The Beach  
Malta 2017

# Limerick Youth Service

- Founded 1973
- Engage with young people aged 10 - 24 years on a voluntary basis in Limerick City and County in a range of programmes, activities and opportunities that build on their strengths.
- Support young people in life transitions and choices.
- Create safe and welcoming spaces and environment for young peoples voices to be heard.
- Deliver 2nd chance Education and Training programmes for early school leavers.
- Work collaboratively with relevant partners to enhance achievements for young people .
- Advocate and create leadership opportunities for young people

Intercultural Night  
Malta 2017



**HELLO  
FROM**

*limerick youth service*



Youth Work Ireland



0:04 / 7:56



## [Our Story](#)

# Ensuring inclusivity - Let's Talk About Malta!

- ▶ Youth Exchange that began with an idea- but no group
- ▶ Inclusive of targeted and mainstream
- ▶ Open call for places on exchanges- representation geographically & equal opportunity
- ▶ Interview process- Fair process, supported by youth worker
- ▶ Extensive preparation - individual and group, minimum of 6 weeks preparation including overnight
- ▶ Supporting harder to reach young people- passports, literacy, guardianship etc.
- ▶ More work and more VALUE!!





# Ensuring inclusivity - Let's Talk About Malta!

## The Preparation

- ▶ Week 1 -Icebreaker session/ getting to know you session!
  - ▶ Group bonding
- ▶ Week 2- Caring for your international friend Name game
  - ▶ Given an egg to decorate at the beginning of the session - this is your international friend
  - ▶ Empathy, cultural awareness
- ▶ Week 3 What it means to be Irish
  - ▶ Plan and prep Irish night/ events ownership of tasks
  - ▶ Youth Identity/ Local and Global
- ▶ Week 4- Preparing for Malta
  - ▶ Logistics- Bags, Passports , itinerary, what you need, preparing for the plane- visualising breaking it down
  - ▶ Learning more about Malta



# Ensuring inclusivity - Let's Talk About Malta!

## The Preparation

### ▶ Week 5 Overnight

- ▶ Group bonding, preparing for the exchange, preparing for homesickness
- ▶ Parents evening questions and answers

### ▶ Week 6: Fundraising planning

- ▶ Responsibility & buy in- young people use the money they raise on the exchange
- ▶ Fundraising - what, when, where, how, who is responsible

### Week 7 : The Final Meeting

- ▶ Exchange contract - acceptable behaviour, expectations and responsibilities
- ▶ Evaluation of Preparation
- ▶ Final questions





# LYS, Inclusion & Erasmus+

Limerick Youth Service Strategic Plan 2018-2021

‘International Youth Work’

Identified

As one of the ways in which we deliver youth work

*limerick youth service*



**LIMERICK  
YOUTH SERVICE  
STRATEGIC PLAN**

**2018  
2021**  
**YOUTH  
WORK  
CHANGES  
LIVES**



# What are we doing now?

## Limerick Youth Service 'International Youth Work Development Group'

Formed in February 2018

### Initial Purpose:

*"Developing a strategic vision and plan for international youth work in Limerick Youth Service"*

*Members: CTC Advocate, Youth Information Officer, Youth Justice Worker, Youth Worker (TYFS), Youth Worker (other), Youth Work Line Manager, Monitoring & Evaluation Officer (input from HR Manager)*

"Libramente"  
Bolzano 2013



# The Evolution of an Idea

Before we could plan for our future, we needed to look at our past.

We developed a **research project** including all of the young people, staff and volunteers.

Exploring what worked well during their experience, what could have been better?

Document outcomes for those who have engaged in international youth work.

Youth Work Job Shadow  
In France  
2012



# Inclusion through Consultation

The aim of the consultation was  
- to document the experiences and outcomes for young people who engaged with LYS supported YE initiatives.

Its objectives were to:

- ▶ Strengthen understanding of YE processes and outcomes
- ▶ Strengthen understanding of any factors that may limit or enable YE success
- ▶ Ensure high quality YE delivery with positive outcomes for young people
- ▶ Prioritise the opinions and experiences of young people in YE evaluation activities

“Participant  
Receiving  
Youth Pass for  
SHIFT  
Youth Exchange  
from  
Minister Katherine  
Zappone”





# Reunion / Consultation

Methodology/ How did we do it?

- ▶ Storytelling: My LYS international Youth Work Experience
- ▶ Open Space: What does International Youth Work mean for young people?
- ▶ Identifying Themes
- ▶ World Café on top 3 themes exploring
  - A positive experience of international youth work' in relation to....
  - A 'negative experience of international youth work' in relation to...
  - What recommendations or actions can you suggest for LYS for future international opportunities?





# Findings...

- ▶ *'Pre exchange processes, including is expected and required of certain individuals, groups' etc*
- ▶ *Cohesive organisational response to Youth Mobility*
- ▶ *More preparation with young people in the lead up to the exchange*





International Youth Work  
Reunion

# Suite of Tools

## 1. LYS TOOLKIT- The Youth Workers Guide to Youth Exchange

- ▶ Designed by youth workers for youth workers and volunteers. In consultation with experienced and new staff in relation to international youth work.
- ▶ Representation was key to ensuring a practical toolkit.
- ▶ What is Erasmus + & Opportunities under Erasmus+
- ▶ **Preparation:** Application Process, Partner Relationships, Selection process for young people, In Case of Emergency
- ▶ **The Programme:** Before you Travel, Hosting, Supporting young people
- ▶ **Evaluation and Learning:** Youthpass & Evaluation
- ▶ Maintaining Quality Standards in Relation to International Youth Work



# Suite of Tools

## 2. YOUNG PERSONS' TOOLKIT

- ▶ Inclusion of the Voice of the young person
- ▶ Young People shaping their own toolkit
- ▶ Written by Young People
- ▶ Currently being trialed by young people engaging on an exchange programme.

## 3. TRAVEL POLICY (TO BE SIGNED OFF BY THE BOARD)

- ▶ Inclusion of the support of key stake holders in our practice





# What's Next?

- ▶ Launch our suite of resources
- ▶ Re-energise and recruit for working group
- ▶ Support coordination of programmes & activities (practical tasks e.g. solidarity corps)
- ▶ Set priorities for 2019+
- ▶ Keep Asking Questions!!





Over to  
you!

- ▶ Are you happy with the level of Inclusion in Youth Mobility in your Organisation? Why? Why not?
- ▶ What actions could you take in regards to embedding Inclusion in Youth Mobility in your organization?
- ▶ What challenges could you face in embedding Inclusion Youth Mobility in your organization?
- ▶ What benefits may be gained in embedding Inclusion in Youth Mobility in your organization?



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