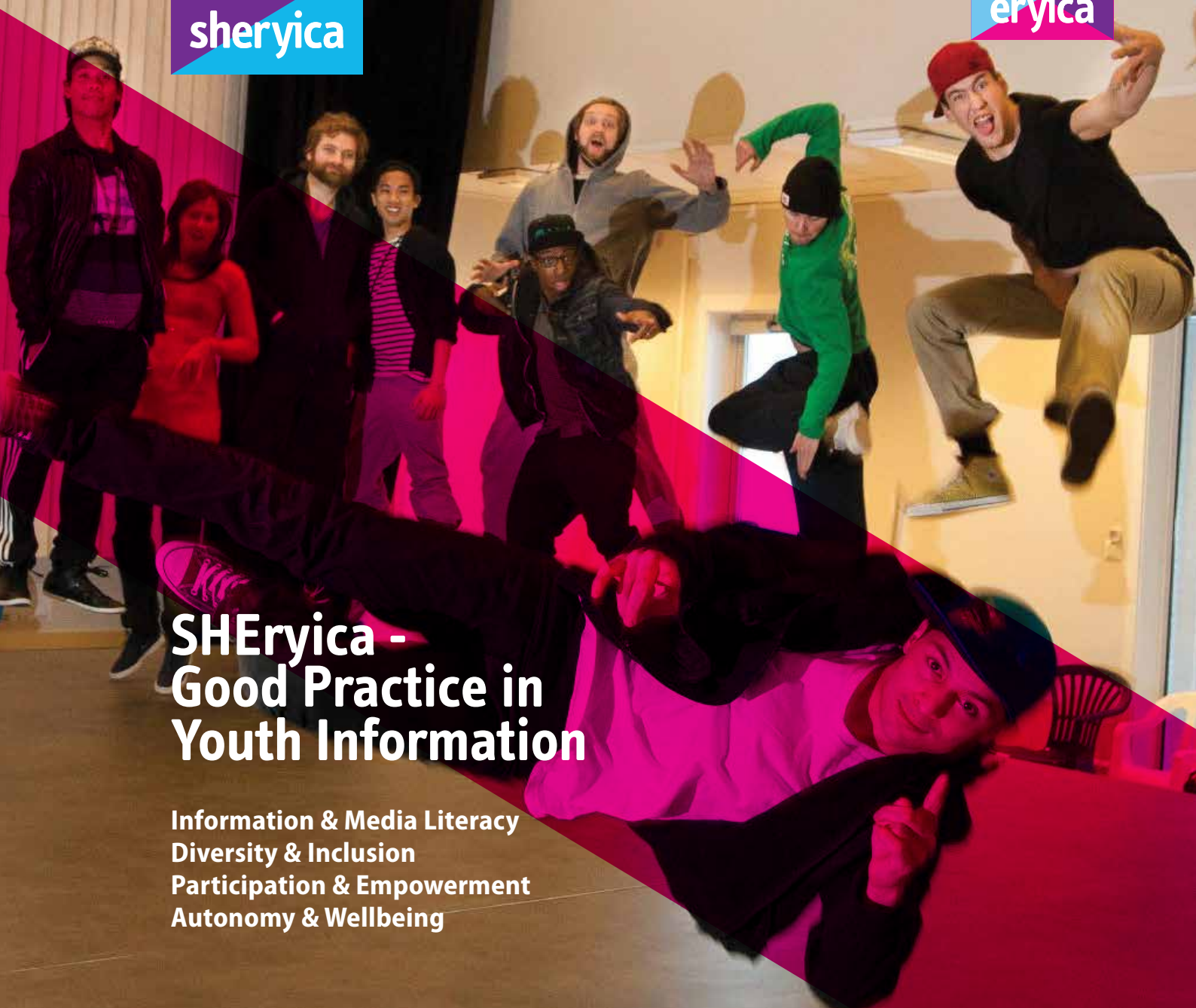




sheryica



SHeryica - Good Practice in Youth Information

Information & Media Literacy
Diversity & Inclusion
Participation & Empowerment
Autonomy & Wellbeing

SHeryica - Good Practice in Youth Information

**Information & Media Literacy
Diversity & Inclusion
Participation & Empowerment
Autonomy & Wellbeing**

Publisher in charge:

Eva Reina

Editor:

Imre Simon

Proofreading:

Jessica Walker

Design:

Ismet Lisica

Contents	5
Dear reader	7
Chapter 1: Information & Media Literacy	8
1.1 Finland: Outreach youth information and counselling work in rural areas	
1.2 Germany: Youtube campaign with over 250,000 views to promote a youth event	
1.3 Portugal: STOP campaign: Stop taboos, oppression and prejudice. Short video contest and debate	
1.4 F. Y. R. Macedonia: You(th) Challenging Diversity: Representation of Minorities in the New Media	
Chapter 2: Diversity & Inclusion	18
2.1 Slovenia: POMP - Support to Young Immigrants and Families	
2.2 Belgium: Lounge: Discussion groups about political and social subjects	
2.3 Finland: GO Finland - Digital game familiarises young people with Finnishness	
2.4 Malta: Developing Detached Youth Work Service	
Chapter 3: Participation & Empowerment	28
3.1 Spain: Youth Wiki Guide	
3.2 Malta: Youth Village	
3.3 Estonia: Participation Café	
3.4 Luxembourg: Intergenerational Youth Convention	
3.5 Norway: Empowerment through Project-Based Participation - “The Project Cradle”	
3.6 Cyprus: 1 st National Youth Conference	
3.7 Albania: Youth Against Corruption	
3.8 Austria: EureProjekte	
Chapter 4: Autonomy & Wellbeing	46
4.1 Croatia: Info Zone on radio - A weekly radio show	
4.2 Spain: Don´t risk it! - A peer-to-peer youth information project about sexual health and reproduction	
4.3 Luxembourg: United for Employment	
4.4 Sweden: Body & Mind: Health	
4.5 Austria: Young People’s Health Conferences	

dear reader

by Jaana Fedotoff, ERYICA President

The search for good practices and examples of youth information and counselling is constant. Throughout the years, there have been many good examples, but what are they and where can we find more information about them?

ERYICA's Good Practice Booklet is a great tool for browsing through examples of youth information projects and good practices on different themes around Europe. This is the **4th edition of the publication**. The themes are: information and media literacy, diversity and inclusion, participation and empowerment and autonomy and well-being. All of these themes play a central role in youth information, and were also addressed in the position paper "**Engage. Inform. Empower**. Recommendation from the main European Youth Information and Mobility networks on the new EU Youth Strategy (2016)", written jointly by ERYICA, EYCA and Eurodesk.

The promotion of **information and media literacy** should be at the centre of our work and one of the main goals of youth information. Without these skills, young people do not know how to be critical about the information targeted at them. These skills are needed now more than ever because prejudice and hate speech are taking over.

Our role in this task is essential! Through information, we also strengthen **the inclusion, empowerment, autonomy and well-being** of young people. The methods and models created in youth information services can reach young people in interesting and attractive ways, for example by e-participation and social media tools.



Information is a tool for eradicating inequality, creating understanding and building bridges. This is why youth information, with its different kinds of tools, methods and channels, is crucial. And this is why it is important for **youth information workers** to know about good practices and how to adapt them to different purposes and target groups. And remember: young people should have a role in this.

Get interested, get excited and adapt the good practices of this publication. They have already been tried and tested. In my position as the president of ERYICA, I have the pleasure to see and experience the many different and **innovative methods** that are being used within our members' services.

Thank you all, it is an honour to learn from you!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jaana Fedotoff". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Jaana Fedotoff
ERYICA President

Chapter 1: Information & Media Literacy

by Kirsten Urquhart – Information Services Coordinator- Young Scot – Scotland (UK)

The way that young people engage with information has changed, and is ever evolving. We are now operating in an **attention-economy**, whereby only topics and content that are relevant to individual lives and circumstances attracts attention. In order to engage meaningfully with young people around youth information, and to engender a culture of participation, we have to do it on their terms; in the spaces they operate, in a format that they understand, and in a context that is relevant to their lives.

Through the ever expanding use of digital and smart devices, many young people have a **vast amount of information** at their fingertips to decipher, on different platforms and in different content formats. A lot of this information is not quality assured or factual, but is often opinion based, commentary or personal observations on a particular issue. We need to ensure that young people are not operating in an echo-chamber or micro-climate of information, and that they are equipped with the **skills, knowledge and resilience** to navigate this landscape.

Increasingly the youth information sector has to adopt an agile approach to **engaging young people** on different online and offline platforms; co-creating our content/messaging with young people to ensure that it is in the right format for each individual social/digital platform, and ensuring that it is delivered at the right time. It is no longer acceptable to expect young people to simply find your information, you have to involve young people in the process, be pro-active in sharing and disseminating content, and ensure that it is relevant and responsive to their information needs.

The youth information sector is also acutely aware of the potential of digital technology in the employment sector, and this is especially true for young people across Europe. We need to equip our young people for the jobs of the future and **information literacy and media literacy** is a key part of this. A lot of great work is going across the ERYICA network in

terms of the role of information and employability that will help improve the job prospects for young people, and it is important to ensure that we are sharing best practice insights.

Whilst as a sector, we recognise that the **Internet and digital technologies** represent incredible potential and opportunities to young people, we are also very aware of the risks and challenges that are attached to our digital world. While our young people are supported and protected by a clear set of rights in the analogue world (UNCRC), their rights in the digital space are not yet defined and fully realised by all. As a network, we must collaborate to ensure that young people are informed and knowledgeable about their **digital rights** and feel confident to exercise them, both in a personal and professional capacity. Again, lots of great work, such as the Young Scot 5Rights Youth Commission in Scotland, is ongoing in this area.

Young people are at the heart of everything we do and it is imperative that they remain so. Adopting principles of co-design is therefore essential to ensuring the effectiveness of our youth information service provision. **Co-design** is essentially about putting the consequence of a proposition in the hands of young people and committing to the process fully. It's about the positive disruption of a service, informed participation and fostering **innovation**. It's about giving young people **confidence**.

We know from the young people that we work with that allowing them to **explore & experiment** and come up with solutions for longer-term systemic change in hugely empowering and results in more meaningful engagement. Of course, you don't have to take action on all suggestions, but the principals of taking action together rather than 'on their behalf' is meaningful and empowering. The key part here is the **taking action together** – young people know that their participation makes a difference and results in a youth information service that is relevant to their needs.



Finland
City of Kuopio
October 2015 - July 2017

1.1 Outreach youth information and counselling work in rural areas

Description:

The 'Local service for **youth information and counselling** work in **rural areas** of Kuopio' is a two-year project being carried out with the help of one youth information worker (YI worker) in five villages in the region of Kuopio. The target group is **10-18 year olds** living in these rural areas, and the aim is to be part of their everyday school and youth centre activities. The area is vast, and thus requires a lot of mobility. The YI worker has realised how much of an obstacle distance can be for a young person, and travel-related problems are common in Finland amongst youngsters.

Our YI worker has been working with youth workers and school staff, covering various topics. However often it is enough just to listen to the students, and it is incredible how quickly young people open up and talk about personal matters. No work day has been the same, and our colleague has seen how valued the **different tools, guidance and counselling** offered to young people are.

The actions that have been carried out in this project so far include the following:

- creating a **model for youth information** services in the rural area of Kuopio;
- **info packages** of the most common youth information topics;
- **peer-to-peer information** sessions and active peer-to-peer groups;
- groups of young people with a shared purpose who meet **online and face-to-face**;
- **sharing** professional knowledge between operators (school and youth work);
- improving online counselling work; and
- using **social media** as an active tool to carry out youth information and counselling work.

A concrete example of good cooperation is the launching of a **girls' activity group**, as it is boys who visit youth centres most often. The YI worker brings along visitors, such as a sex therapist, or a midwife. The youth centre also stays open during break times, and invites people such as a student advisor, curator, nurse, social worker and YI worker. The YI worker has also been involved in developing the area's international activities. For example, EVS volunteers have travelled around to speak English and German during lessons, in school corridors and at youth centres. In addition, the project combines the objectives of **peer information activities** and **international youth exchange** in the Medialab project. Medialab's young publicists produce diverse media content, making young peoples' voices heard in matters concerning them in their own areas.

The YI worker also works online, by operating as a network administrator. The network is balanced by combining **handicrafts** with youth information purposes, for example, by making Guatemalan worry dolls. The small dolls are



intended to act as a by-product when discussing the **worries and concerns** of children and young people. The worry is told to these dolls in the evening, then it is placed under a pillow, and during the night, the doll worries on behalf of the young person. Alongside activities, there have been discussions about the divorce of parents, bullying, family disputes and the pain of leaving when moving abroad.

Achievements:

The project has impacted **more than 4,000 young peoples' lives** so far. This demonstrates that youth information work is needed and the topics that are covered by the service affect many young people. The outreach YI worker has also created **workshops** that will be used in schools and in local youth houses when the project has ended. The topics covered are the following: bullying, international opportunities, summer work and gaming, amongst many others. Our YI worker has offered training sessions and meetings for those who work in rural areas to share ideas for working together. This has also been an opportunity to share thoughts in a professional way. Since the beginning of the project, our YI worker has used social media as a tool to interact with young people, using most frequently the applications **WhatsApp, Instagram and Snapchat**. These apps are very diverse, and are a great means to interact with our YI worker and receive help with questions and problems.

Number of participants:

more than 4,000 young people

Youth Information tool:

Outreaching work, informing & counselling, peer-to-peer, themed workshops and social media

For more information:

Miina Morko, miina.morko@kuopio.fi, www.po1nt.fi



Germany

IJAB- Fachstelle für Internationale Jugendarbeit
der Bundesrepublik Deutschland e.V.
14 - 16 October 2016

1.2 Youtube campaign with over 250,000 views to promote a youth event

Description:

From 14-16 October 2016, the youth conference **Webdays 2016** took place in Berlin. **“Your Data, your security, your opinion”** – this motto describes what the conference was all about: young people discussed data security and consumer protection on the Internet. In order to hear what young people have to say about digital issues, they debated in workshops with experts.

To attract the attention of young people for this event and to motivate them to take part in discussions on different issues beforehand, four so called **“YouTube Stars”** were involved in the marketing strategy of IJAB. The four “YouTubers” addressed their fans on their popular YouTube channels and called on them to sign up for the conference and to discuss the topics in the comment section. To keep it **authentic**, all of them chose a topic which would fit into their channels. Central questions of the videos were: “Isn’t the Internet just a waste of time?”, “What is the darknet?”, “Are we heading for cyber war?”, or “Can digital participation really change anything?”

Achievements:

Three days after the videos were released, over 150 young people applied for the conference. The videos generated **more than 250,000 views** and **more than 2,000 comments** from young people. Here you could see their main interests and what was most important for them. For example:

“The Internet has brought some huge changes over the past years. Everything seems easy: meeting people with dating apps, expressing your political opinion or sharing pictures with your friends. But it’s not all good. People tend to be superficial self-promoters and the personal communication suffers. We need to talk!” (Simon, 19 years)

Nowadays **YouTube** is more than beauty advice or gaming. Successful bloggers on YouTube reach out to millions of young people. It is a “place” where opinions and different views, even on political issues, are exchanged and discussed, and where youth information on serious topics can be disseminated and reach young people.

This is the second time IJAB chose this way of successfully addressing young people and encouraging them to discuss digital and political issues. **60 participants** between the ages of 16 and 22 visited the **Webdays conference** in Berlin and discussed with other youngsters, politicians and experts about all the topics related to Internet and data security. All claims and questions were collected and given to the **Ministry of Justice and Consumer Protection**. A small delegation of young people was chosen to represent the results of the conference at the IT-Summit of the German Federal Government in November 2016.

Number of participants:

60 young people, over 250,000 reached by YouTube videos

Youth Information tool:

YouTube, social media

For more information:

Kira Schmahl, schmahl@ijab.de

Information about the conference was circulated on various social media platforms, © Anne Hornemann for IJAB



All participants of the WebDays 2016 Conference,
© Anne Hornemann for IJAB



The four “Youtubers”: Dr. Allwissend (top left), Rayk Anders (bottom left), ItsColeslaw (top right), MrWissen2Go (bottom right), screenshots



Portugal
 Portuguese National Youth Council (CNJ) /
 Portuguese Institute for Sport and Youth (IPDJ)
 January to December 2015

1.3 STOP campaign: Stop taboos, oppression and prejudice. Short video contest and debate

Description:

In 2015, the Portuguese National Youth Council (CNJ) launched the STOP short film contest. The initiative, sponsored by Escolhas Programme and Movijovem, was part of the Council of Europe's **No Hate Speech Movement**, which CNJ embraced from the very beginning. One of the ambitions of CNJ is to help build a society that is fairer and more equal. This ambition led CNJ to launch the **STOP campaign**, which was intended to raise awareness about inequalities regarding young peoples' access to their civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights.

The contestants, who could compete individually or in teams of up to 4 people, had one month to produce a **short film** under one of the following themes:

- 1 – Gender equality/ Discrimination based on gender
- 2 – Ethnic, racial and religious matters
- 3 – People with a disability or impairment
- 4 – Sexual orientation and or gender identity

After the deadline, a selected number of short films (one for each theme) were presented at an event – **“Dialogues on short films”** – and served as a starting point for debates between experts, contestants and young people. At the end of the event, the winner was announced and awarded a 250-euro voucher, and a 2-night stay at one of Movijovem Youth Hostels. The event “Dialogues on short films” took place on 2 December 2015 at the National Sport Museum in Lisbon.

The debates had one member of the selected teams in each panel, and also the following experts: Manuela Tavares (UMAR – Women's Association Alternative and Response) on the gender equality / discrimination based on gender panel; José Falcão (SOS Racismo) on the ethnic, racial and religious matters panel; Pedro Homem Gouveia (Municipality of Lisbon) on the people with a disability or impairment panel and Ana Aresta (ILGA - the International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association) on the sexual orientation and or gender identity panel. The debates focused on the causes and **consequences of prejudice and discrimination** that still exist in Portuguese society, and on the different ways of achieving inclusion. At the end of the event, the prize was awarded to the contestant of the winning short film “A Ordem das Palavras” (The order of the words).

The selected four films were:

- A Ordem das Palavras (The order of the words)
- Sem Preconceito (No prejudice)
- Diferentes Somos Todos (We are all Different)
- Amor não tem Género (Love has no gender)



Achievements:

- Contributed to **raising awareness** among young people regarding different forms of discrimination (specifically the themes listed above) and how they constrain peoples' access to their rights;
- Provided a **space** for young people from different backgrounds to share creatively their perspectives regarding different forms of discrimination;
- Allowed young people to develop **social, personal and communication skills** by being actively involved in creating, directing and editing a social-oriented film; and
- Promoted **dialogue** between young people, decision-makers, public institutions and civil society organisations on how to tackle hate speech at different levels and in different fields.

Number of participants:

80 young people

Youth Information tool:

Video/Film as a tool to engage young people in social matters and a way to raise awareness and promote dialogue on different subjects.

For more information:

Hugo Carvalho, hugo.carvalho@cnj.pt





F. Y. R. Macedonia
Mladiinfo International
1 January 2015 to 31 December 2016

1.4 You(th) Challenging Diversity: Representation of Minorities in the New Media

Description:

The project You(th) Challenging Diversity: **Representation of Minorities in the New Media** aimed to attract young people aged between 18 – 35 to discuss and analyse how to provide all citizens with open access to new media, as well as how to build multicultural practices in the media by presenting good examples of cooperation and living together.

The project focused on **research on new media and minorities** (from June-July 2015), and **4 events** that took place in each of the participating countries (Croatia, Greece, Bulgaria and Macedonia). Each event lasted 2 days and provided different perspectives (on open access to new media, stereotyping, and multicultural practices online) mirrored through presentations, panel discussions and workshops with experts, media professionals, local representatives and participants. The final event, summarising the previous events, took place in Skopje, Macedonia, in the form of a **Final Youth Forum**. The outcomes of the project were online media research, as well as **recommendations** for the media and other stakeholders on how to report on national minorities and promote diversity in their home countries.

The general objectives of the Europe for Citizens Programme targeted by the project were to foster **European citizenship** and improve conditions for civic and **democratic participation** at EU level, specifically by developing citizens' understanding of EU policy-making processes and promoting opportunities for societal and intercultural engagement and volunteering at EU level.

The project specific aims were to:

- **Raise awareness** about the representation of national minorities in new media;
- Boost the quality of **media reporting**;
- Stimulate **exchange** between journalists, NGO activists and media workers on European level, as well as strengthen cross-border cooperation through regional cooperation mechanisms;
- Promote **intercultural learning**, preserve diversity through minority rights' protection and empower European youth on **active citizenship** and participation in society; and
- Enhance the visibility of **Europe for Citizens**.

Achievements:

4 forum events, fruitful debates and **4 panel discussions** at the final forum, which included young researchers, youth media makers and youth activists.

Marko Troshanovski, the main project researcher, also presented the results of research on how minorities are being



represented in the new media. The report is based on findings from the monitoring project that analysed the underlying features of **15 news stories** covering minority issues from the most prominent news websites in four Balkan countries: Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece and Macedonia.

Last but not least, **10 recommendations** for good practices and multicultural reporting were concluded and produced at the final event of the Youth Challenge Diversity project. The recommendations were presented at the Youth Forum in Skopje at the end of the event.

The 10 recommendations are available for download.

Number of participants:

150 young people directly impacted, 1,500+ indirectly reached

Youth Information tool:

Project website (challenging-diversity.eu), Mladiinfo website (www.mladiinfo.eu), social media channels, peer-to-peer promotion.

For more information:

Ana Alibegova, ana@mladiinfo.eu, Shemsedin Iljaz, center@mladiinfo.eu

Chapter 2: Diversity & Inclusion

by Hans Cools – Policy Officer - De Ambrassade - Belgium

Europe is becoming more and more diverse. This is not a new phenomenon; it has been going on for generations. But **where does ‘diversity’ begin and end?**

In a way, from the moment that you enter an elevator with two people, there is diversity in that elevator... Which is why we increasingly use the term **‘super-diversity’**, meaning **‘diversity IN diversity’**. Every person is unique and we as youth workers must be aware of that, always.

A Belgian mayor always uses the quote: ‘We are all immigrants in this super-diverse society...’

And in this small statement, we find a huge challenge for youth information and youth counselling: giving a voice to the least heard youngsters while we are still struggling to give a voice to all youngsters... Providing information that reaches a **diverse public** in a world where information channels are changing so quickly. We must face these challenges from different angles:

	Strategies for more and more equal opportunities	Strategies for more social integration
Strategies on organisation level	A	B

Youth information/youth counselling for everybody:

Try to involve as many different people in your existing formats. This is the classic way to deal with **diversity and inclusion**. The goal is inclusion. This way has had different results, not always positive ones, but sometimes really positive ones ... So the main lesson is to keep on trying ... It's too easy to say: ‘we don't reach THEM’. Every self-respecting youth information/ youth counselling organisation should keep making the effort to try inventive, creative new things regarding this issue.

Be a Bridge.

Bring youth information and counselling to different target groups. **Reach them where they are**. Make bridges. It shouldn't always be your goal to include THEM; sometimes it's already enough to meet THEM! And by meeting them, you will reach them.

Following good examples, try to face these challenges, let them (and this introduction!) inspire you to be inventive and creative!



Slovenia
Zavod MISSS
2016

2.1 POMP – Support to Young Immigrants and Families

Description:

The programme is aimed at the social, cultural, economic and political **integration of immigrant families** who have immigrated to Slovenia in the last three years. The objective of the programme is to improve the quality of family life, as well as the communication of all necessary **information, support and advice** that can be offered on an individual basis, such as: solving problems in the family, family communication, understanding and assertion of social rights, opportunities and methods of education, exercising rights to health care, access to work and employment, and housing policy. The aim is to integrate individuals into society, and it is therefore necessary to ensure effective access to social, cultural, economic and political rights.

Through the programme, we are establishing mutual respect within the family, encouraging tolerance and solidarity as well as understanding of social and cultural environments. We are striving to reduce inequality and polarization in society, and use **information to empower immigrants**.

Achievements:

By using information and specific workshops and working methods, the individuals consolidate and master the Slovenian **language**, acquiring **intercultural competences** along the way. Young people receive support in their integration into Slovenian society and its environment (social participation). Consequently, they perform better in school and acquire learning habits, hence increasing employment opportunities and better living standards.

The youth information centre offers **professional help** in solving problems in the family and the environment, psychosocial support (counselling) and information about the rights and obligations of immigrants. They learn social skills, improve communication, computer literacy and are thus integrated into a broader social network.

Number of participants:

450 young people

Youth Information tool:

Face-to-face information and counselling, training, volunteers

For more information:

Dušanka Tešić, dusanka@misss.org; website: www.misss.org





Belgium
 Youth Council RDJ
 2015 - 2016 – 5 times over the two years

2.2 Lounge: Discussion groups about political and social subjects

Description:

An interesting debate with **local young people and experts** who introduce a **controversial subject** from different points of view – to open the minds of young people – in collaboration with the Youth Council of the German Speaking Community of Belgium, other expert organisations and the Youth Information Centre. Experts are invited to come to an open debate about a certain topic. They usually give a short presentation that leads on to a **debate** between youngsters, stakeholders, and other interested parties. The Lounges are open for everyone to join- anyone who is interested in a certain topic/subject and is available to join the lounge. The lounge is dynamic and creative, subjects and experts are chosen together by the working group of the youth council (the youth information centres are part of this council).

So far, the following topics have been discussed in the lounges:

- After Work Lounge: What is a youth council? How can I participate?
- Brunch Lounge: rural development project: 100 villages – 1 future
- Future of religious education in our schools: Yes or No?
- Strikes and labour unions
- Blood donation lounge

Ideas for future lounges are: refugees, TTIP, visions for a future EU, my own work-life balance....

It is also intended to give each event a **friendly and relaxed feel**, which is why it usually takes place in a nice working environment like a café or a youth club, with some homemade food and drinks – sometimes also linked to a **seasonal theme** like Oktoberfest or Halloween.

Achievements:

The lounges give young people an insight into a current topic, allow them to express their opinion on it and to enter into a debate with experts, who themselves might learn something from the point of view of the young citizens. All participants are expected to leave the lounge with an **open mind, new insights** and maybe new ideas for future projects they might feel motivated to launch because of the lounge.

Number of participants:

each time about 15-25 young people

Youth Information tool:

Discussion group

For more information:

Catherine Weisshaupt, catherine.weisshaupt@jugendbuero.be





Finland
 Youth information and counselling service JIBBO
 Since March 2016

2.3 GO Finland – Digital game familiarises young people with Finnishness

Description:

GO Finland is a **digital game** on JIBBO's website. The game is directed at young immigrants and asylum seekers. Its goal is to familiarise them with **Finnishness**. The project is funded by a grant from the Ministry of Education and started in March 2016.

Over the past year, many asylum seekers have come to the region of Seinäjoki, and there are also lots of foreign students living here. Like every culture, Finnish culture is different and there are lots of new things to learn. We wanted to think of inspiring ways to teach conventions of Finnish culture to these youngsters and help them to adjust to their new environment. **Digital youth information** was the theme in 2016 and we had never tried a digital game before, so it was an easy decision.

Our project started by searching for a suitable game developer, and ideally we wanted to employ a young person for the role. In this we succeeded, and the development of the game took three months during the summer, so was an ideal summer job. At the same time, we gathered ideas for the game content, with the help of a specialised youth worker and her clients. We asked these young people, who are already accustomed to life in Finland, about different aspects of life in Finland. The contents of **GO Finland** (questions and answers) were created based on these answers.

The game language of GO Finland is English, therefore as many youngsters as possible can play it. There are five different scenes in the game: **people, manners, services, school** and **nature**. In every scene, there are 4 to 6 different objects to find and different questions to answer. After answering, the player gets feedback or the right answer. The player can play all scenes through at one time or pick the most interesting ones.

Achievements:

Three weeks after the release of the game, **about 100 players** have played the game. We have also received some user **feedback** via the game site that has been encouraging:

"I liked that the tasks are all a little bit different. It gives variety and makes you wonder what will be on the next object."

"The illustrations are really nice, especially the one of the Nature."

"A really nice game, which is worth to play when you want to know more about Finland and understand Finns. It definitely is a better method to learn those facts with the game than just to read them."

This project continues with **active marketing**. We hope that it will reach its target group and grows into a very good practice of youth information.

Number of participants:

About 100 players 3 weeks after publishing

Youth Information tool:

Digital youth information

For more information:

Mirka Mäki-Kala, mirka.maki-kala@seinajoki.fi,
 www.jibbo.net



GO Finland

- PEOPLE
- MANNERS
- SERVICES
- SCHOOL
- NATURE

Welcome to play "GO Finland". This game's goal is to familiarize you to the Finnishness (culture, habits etc).

In the game scene you can move forward by moving the mouse. You can also click the objects.

Have fun moments with the game!



Malta
Aġenzija Żgħażaġh
(Malta's National Youth Agency)
2016 onwards

2.4 Developing Detached Youth Work Service

Description:

Developing Detached Youth Work Practice, an Erasmus + funded project, in which Aġenzija Żgħażaġh was the lead partner in association with the Centre for Sustainable Community Development (CSCD), Romania, YMCA George Williams College in the UK and Stichting Jong Rotterdam (Foundation Youth Rotterdam). The project aimed to develop and strengthen **detached youth work services** in the partner countries through the exchange of **good practice** and **peer learning**.

All the partner organisation involved in the project were committed to the concept of **detached youth work** and the benefits that could accrue to young people, youth organisations and society in general if it were practically and effectively implemented "on the ground". Detached youth work was new territory for both Aġenzija Żgħażaġh and the Centre for Sustainable Community Development (CSCD), Romani, but YMCA George Williams College and Stichting Jorg Rotterdam had relevant experience in the field. This combination of **experience and in-experience** proved both fruitful and challenging and the outcomes of the project will not only the partner organisations and the young people with whom they work, but also help promote detached youth work practice as a valuable and important, if demanding, aspect of youth work.

The project also reflected the ambitions and aspirations of the partner organisations. In the case of Aġenzija Żgħażaġh, which initiated and coordinated the project, it served to expand and strengthen the services it provides for young people in Malta while also fulfilling a commitment in the **national youth policy** strengthen Towards 2020 - A shared vision for the future of young people - to provide "outreach and detached youth work services to address, in particular, the needs of socially excluded and at risk young people".

A **report** on the project and its outcomes was published in summer 2016 and can be provided upon request.

Achievements:

In 2015, Aġenzija Żgħażaġh conducted a **pilot project** in detached youth work in Kottonera, Valletta and the South East region in Malta with a view to providing a detached youth work service for young people in these areas commencing in 2016.

Number of participants:

50-100 youth people

Youth Information tool:

Detached youth work aims to make contact and be **available to young people where they gather** and congregate - in the street, park, locality - with a view to supporting them in gaining knowledge, recognising new opportunities and engaging positively with the world around them.

For more information:

Gabriella Calleja, gabriella.a.calleja@gov.mt



Chapter 3: Participation & Empowerment

By Daniel Poli – Head of Department for the Qualification and Development of International Youth Work- IJAB - Germany

In times of increasing national egoism and authoritarian tendencies in Europe, it is crucial to promote and strengthen **democratic participation** and empower young people to be active citizens in Europe. The role of youth information in supporting the participation and active citizenship of young people is expressed in the “Revised European Charter on the Participation of Young People in Local and Regional Life” of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe and in the Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2012 – 2015). The Council of Europe acknowledges that access to full, comprehensible and reliable **information is a right for young people** that enables them to exercise complete freedom of choice and that it is a prerequisite for their inclusion and active participation in society, as well as for responsible citizenship.

In this sense, youth information, as an integrated part of youth work in Europe, can support and initiate activities that enable participation processes and strengthen participation competences of young people in **three dimensions**:

- **Knowledge:** Young people need diverse knowledge about political and societal structures, decision-making processes and possible means of participation, they need to have a basic understanding of how democracy functions, who is responsible for which political decision and how decisions can be influenced. Beyond this, knowledge about current tools like e-participation technology or new methods of offline participation and how to use and implement them is needed to initiate participation processes. Knowledge is also required about societal and political communication structures, means and techniques to use them to raise public awareness and motivate others to take part.
- **Reflection:** To achieve critical engagement of young people in their communities and societies, young people have to learn how to take a critical stance and to form their own positions and interests on current political and societal issues. They have to evaluate established decision-making processes within the political system. Furthermore, it is

important that young people - as active citizens - are able to advocate for their interests and can evaluate different forms of participation, while introducing their own views in decision-making processes.

- **Action:** As a third dimension, the active use of different tools, methods and communication techniques must be supported. Young people need to have a positive experience with different forms of participation processes to initiate their own activities according to their positions and interests. What is more, they need to identify realistic opportunities for successful participation, using their everyday communication tools and engagement for political participation.

To conclude, youth information needs to **empower young people through information** about concrete possibilities of participation. Through counselling, youth information work can help young people to frame their opinions, form their own judgment and allow them to take part in current discussions as active citizens. In this sense, it is important that youth information workers strengthen their position as partners for political stakeholders. We must also take an active role as a **connector and translator** in the field of youth participation in two ways: with and for the young people and in close connection to decision-makers at local, regional, national and/or European level. Youth information workers must take a decisive and self-confident stand as a political player to advocate for young people.

To inspire and further develop youth information as a **catalyst for the democratic participation** of young people, the following examples of good practices represent a source of inspiration for all of us. The variety of methods, innovative approaches and dynamic practices gives support in further developing, promoting and fostering participation and empowerment of young people not just for ERYICA's members - but for youth work in general.



Spain
 Agència Catalana de la Joventut
 (Catalan Youth Agency)
 Multi year

3.1 Youth Wiki Guide

Description:

The Viqui Guia Jove is a **toolbox for youth workers** who wish to foster and consolidate participation among young people. The reading cards tackle different themes related to youth participation and projects promoting youth. The format of the guide is based on a digital platform which allows collaborative editing of documents, open to all those wishing to contribute with ideas and useful material, especially professionals.

Participation, education, inclusion and territory are the four pillars that support the guide. The content aims to increase the capacity of young people to influence and participate. The educational aspect of the reading cards also aims to provide tools which contribute to the empowerment of young people as actors of social change. Likewise, the strategy includes the need to contribute from an inclusive perspective. Finally, it recognises the diversity of the area and provides resources that can give inspiration according to different realities in different places.

The reading cards that currently can be found are:

The role of promoters	Communication
Youth reality	Youth equipment
Young people get involved	Equipment management
Diversity of young people	Young people implication
Dialogue with young people	Educational centres
Evaluation of the activity	Public space
Planning the activity	ICT as participation mechanism
Community work	Conflict management

The guide can be read following the proposed order or randomly. Every reading card addresses several initial situations, which may respond to the reality of being a youth professional.

The main objectives are:

- To produce a **tool** for youth professionals, including resources for youth promotion; and
- To promote **knowledge and experiences** through the guide, to be open, dynamic and flexible.



Achievements:

The guide is open to everyone through the platform textbooks, the guide is a collaborative project and community effort; anyone can add or modify content, thus it is an **open, lively and dynamic tool**.

The guide has been promoted by the administration, but was **designed collectively** by different professionals working with young people. This collaborative process has a core group, composed of experts from around the country. Throughout 2015, several meetings were held in order to validate the design of the guide, make monitoring and participation workshops, design the script and content, and validate its development and content.

The methodology used in the process of opening consisted of **three workshops**, with 30 participants.

Since its launch date, there have been a total of **400 entries**, with an average of 37 posts a day and about 4 visits to each chapter.

Number of participants:

All youth professionals

Youth Information tool:

Participation toolbox for youth workers

For more information:

Montse Herguido Farre, mherguido@gencat.cat



Malta
 Aġenzija Żgħażaġh
 (Malta's National Youth Agency)
 2015 onwards

3.2 Youth Village

Description:

Aġenzija Żgħażaġh moved into its new premises at Umberto Calosso in February 2015. The new premises enables Aġenzija Żgħażaġh to house most of its staff and services on the one site, including Youth.inc and the Youth Information One Stop Shop (YIOSS). The new site also houses the **Youth Village**, which provides space, facilities and supports for young people and youth organisations to organise events and initiatives.

The overarching aim and purpose of the Youth Village is be to create a **physical, administrative, and learning environment** and culture that will attract both young people and those who work with and for them.

Achievements:

The Youth Village aims to:

- Streamline administrative services and **optimise** use of physical infrastructure and supports;
- Provide a **safe and friendly** environment for young people where they can access a comprehensive range of support services;
- Foster a **cross-sectoral** approach and **professional** collegiality in addressing young people's needs and aspirations;
- Serve as a **focal point** for young people and youth workers and for services provided by other Ministries and entities;
- Ensure **value** for money;
- Focus on the needs of **'at risk' young people**: early school leavers, young people not in employment, education or training (NEET), young people with literacy problems, young migrants etc;
- Serve as an **'incubator unit'** for developing new and innovative services and supports for young people;
- Provide Aġenzija Żgħażaġh with additional **space and resources** to expand its existing services and planned services such as outreach and detached youth work;
- Serve as a **resource centre** for youth workers and for the provision of ongoing professional development for those who work with young people; and
- Host the **Youth.inc programme**.

The Youth Village was formally opened on 12 December 2015 by Evarist Bartolo, Minister for Education and Employment and Parliamentary Secretary for Research, Innovation, Youth and Sport, Mr. Chris Agius. As part of the opening celebrations, a Christmas Market that provided young entrepreneurs with the opportunity to display and sell their products in a festive atmosphere was hosted in the Youth Village.



Number of participants:

1,000 young people annually

Youth Information tool:

Youth.inc and the Youth Information One Stop Shop (YIOSS).

For more information:

Noel Zammit Pawley, noel.zammit-pawley@gov.mt





Estonia
Eesti Noorteühenduste Liit
(Estonian National Youth Council)
3-11 November 2016

3.3 Participation Café

Description:

Participation cafés started in Estonia back in 2008. Throughout the years, the café has grown into the biggest event of its kind in the country. Each year **around 1,500 young people** and **200 decision-makers** take part in **15 regional cafés**, discussing different topics particularly relevant to youth. Each year five to six topics are discussed, depending on the participants' interests. This year topics varied from the future of the European Union to mental health.

The platform provides an excellent chance for young people to participate in decision-making processes and to build bridges between young people and decision-makers. **Youth participation** is essential for the project since young people are involved in all aspects of the organisation, from the choice of topics to the general organisation of the event.

The outcome of the discussions are drafted and afterwards used for **policy input and action plans**. The platform is also used for developing youth participation in general. All the regional events are organised by young people from local and regional youth councils, offering them the chance to improve their management and teamwork skills.

Achievements:

The input from the regional cafés is used for policy input for the **Estonian National Youth Council** and for the action plans of the regional and local youth councils.

Through the platform, around 1,500 young people have a chance to take part in **direct democracy processes** and to express their opinion to decision-makers.

In addition, the participation cafés provide the **platform and experience** for young people to start actively participating at all levels.

Number of participants:

around 1,700 young people

Youth Information tool:

Building bridges between young people and decision-makers

For more information:

Kristjan Tedremaa, kristjan@enl.ee





Luxembourg
 Centre national d'Information pour Jeunes
 (National Youth Information Centre)
 30 October 2015

3.4 Intergenerational Youth Convention

Description:

The Intergenerational Youth Convention is a pilot initiative that brings together **young people** at the end of their obligatory schooling with **experienced professionals** from a multitude of economic areas, to discuss together young peoples' sources of anxiety regarding the labour market. This exchange allows the youth to dissipate their fears and to become familiar with relevant tactics to overcome the difficulties they may encounter on the local labour market at the beginning of their professional careers. At the **Intergenerational Youth Convention**, both groups of participants also exchange their feelings about the existing educational system and the employment possibilities for young people and come up with recommendations for improvement. These **recommendations**, which aim to help young people make a better choice for their future career and acquire the necessary competences recognised by the local labour market, are presented at the end of the Intergenerational Youth Convention directly to members of Parliament.

The National Youth Information Centre organised the Intergenerational Youth Convention in collaboration with two partner organisations (Conférence générale de la jeunesse du Luxembourg - CGJL and Center fir Altersfroen - RBS) within the framework of a project entitled **Information, Citizenship, Employment – Trampoline** (Information Citoyenneté, Emploi – Tremplin), co-funded by the European Social Fund.

Achievements:

- **Empowering** youth with regard to the labour market;
- Building a first **professional network**;
- Developing **recommendations** to improve the existing educational system and make the labour market even more youth friendly; and
- Expressing recommendations directly to members of **Parliament** and the **Minister of Labour and Employment**.

Number of participants:

89 of 11 different nationalities

Youth Information tool:

Intergenerational exchange

For more information:

Andrea Gerstnerova, agerstnerova@cij.lu





Norway
 Tvibit Youth Centre (Youth Information Centre of Tromsø)
 Every year

3.5 Empowerment through Project-Based Participation - “The Project Cradle”

Description:

To implement autonomous projects and collaborative initiatives at a young age develops skills, an entrepreneurial mentality and confidence. The method ‘**Project-Based Participation**’ gives young people the opportunity to influence their communities and their own lives by realising their own ideas and thus actively contributing to the development of society.

Method

The method is action-oriented (**learning through action**), and helps to strengthen the independence, self-confidence and learning ability of each young person. The method puts youth participation in focus.

Project Cradle

The Project Cradle is a **key tool** that the youth information centre uses in Project-Based Participation. Key concepts here are youth participation and a focus on the young person’s own ideas and initiative. The reason why this method works is that it is based on young people’s own energy and interest, and that it challenges young people in taking responsibility for implementation and result.

Young people **from 15 to 25** can get help through The Project Cradle in many ways:

- Guidance/mentoring;
- Workshops;
- Funding;
- Infrastructure - Access to equipment, rooms, working facilities, other infrastructure; and
- Networks.

It is our experience that project-based participation is **universal** and works regardless of social or geographical background if you focus on what the young people are passionate about. The method has values in terms of self-development, youth initiatives, community development, entrepreneurship and democracy.

Achievements:

- Increased **confidence, skills, competence and self-esteem** of individuals;
- More activities by and for young people in the **city and region**;
- Lowered threshold for initiating a **youth project** in the local community;
- Increased **cooperation** between local clubs, associations, municipalities and businesses as a result of local youth initiatives;



- Increased **awareness** among young people about the local environment and resources;
- **Positive attitude** towards youth in the local community – the city now sees young people as a resource;
- In regards to **depopulation** of young people in rural areas: - If young people have had the opportunity to influence their own communities, they have a greater desire to come back to their home region to settle down with their family after graduation; and
- If young people are taken seriously and are allowed to have an **impact** on their community they are less likely to feel alienated. Failure to develop quality services for young people will lead to their energy and frustration finding outlets elsewhere.

Some **examples** of the projects led by young people are:

- A festival based on a **FISHING BOAT ON LAND**, which was used as a stage and with exclusively local bands;
- The paper plane club who invited one of the leading flight engineers from Boeing in the USA to teach them about aerodynamics – and he accepted!;
- Young people between 17 to 23 years old initiated an open air music festival in 2004 in Tromsø – it is now one of Norway’s biggest festivals with a yearly turnover of 1.5 million euro;
- A young boy had a project to build a mind-controlled robotic exoskeleton for a friend who had cerebral palsy;
- Two young hip-hop dancers received support and guidance to develop the hip hop show “Alexander the Great”. In May 2013 the performance premiered at the local theatre, with a total budget of several hundred thousand euro;
- And many, many more...

Number of participants:

Approx. 100 projects every year – may include +2,000 young people

Youth Information tool:

Counselling, workshops, networking, social media, online services, peer-to-peer, international projects.

For more information:

Sif Vik, sif@tvibit.net



3.6 1st National Youth Conference

Description:

Having recognised the lack of a **cohesive national youth strategy** in Cyprus, the Youth Board of Cyprus decided to proceed with a number of actions aiming to form a suggestion to the Ministry of Education and Culture for the enactment of a national youth strategy.

The national youth strategy will provide the broad framework which will define the general vision in the field of youth and which will pursue the institutionalisation of a holistic, cross-sectoral and inter-ministerial approach for the **empowerment of young people** in Cyprus, and their personal development and active citizenship. This institutionalised framework will connect state initiatives and actions in the field of youth, and at the same time will result in common goals and principles.

Among the actions taken by the Youth Board of Cyprus to introduce this strategy, a **thematic conference** was organised, during which experts on youth issues and representatives of European and international institutions informed participants about the latest developments in the field of youth, and more specifically about the development of a national youth strategy. The conference was held under the auspices of the President of the Republic of Cyprus, Mr. Nicos Anastasiades, who gave a speech at the official opening ceremony. The Minister of Education and Culture, the President of the Youth Board of Cyprus and the President of the Parliamentary Committee of Education also delivered speeches during the opening session. The keynote speaker was Ms. Anje Rothmund, Head of the Youth Department of the Council of Europe.

The Youth Board's primary goal to achieve youth participation in the development and implementation of this youth strategy was fully accomplished, as young people of different ages and social groups participated in the conference. They were given the opportunity to directly **express their views and opinions** through specialised workshops that took place during the second half of the conference.

The **thematic workshops** covered the following topics:

1. Education and Training
2. Employment and Entrepreneurship
3. Health and Well-being
4. Participation
5. Volunteering
6. Social Inclusion
7. Youth and the World
8. Creativity and Culture



The topics of the 8 workshops correspond to the 8 fields of action that this **new cross-sectoral youth policy** will cover. The Youth Board of Cyprus also organised the second Youth Conference, which was held at the European University of Cyprus in Nicosia on 16 November 2016, and which brought together young people from all over the country to express and discuss ideas for a better Cyprus.

Achievements:

The outcomes of the **8 workshops** were summed up and written down as **recommendations** in an official report which was submitted to the Minister of Education and Culture, Dr. Costas Kadis, who is the responsible Minister for youth issues. These recommendations are now being considered by the Youth Board of Cyprus, which is in the process of composing a new youth strategy.

Number of participants:

200 people

Youth Information tool:

thematic workshops

For more information:

Elena Kalli, ekalli@onek.org.cy



Albania
Youth Act
October 2015 - May 2016

3.7 Youth Against Corruption

Description:

'Youth against corruption' fostered activism among high school students in all the cities involved. It helped identify youth-friendly ideas for acknowledging and fighting corruption in the country. Before the training, the students completed a **survey on corruption** and the reasons why levels of corruption are so high in Albania. By doing so, they expressed their opinions on this matter, as well as their willingness to participate actively in schools and local communities.

These youngsters were trained and informed about anti-corruption in order to increase their understanding of **good governance** and citizen participation through activism. They participated actively on **anti-corruption practices** through workshops, forums and social media groups. The Facebook group 'Të rinjtë kundër korrupsionit' helped students from all cities share ideas and inspiration, as well as get in touch about the activities they had organised in their respective towns.

High school students have undertaken joint initiatives in designing **information leaflets** and meaningful posters in an **awareness-raising campaign**. It resulted in an increased number of trained youngsters in 5 main cities in Albania (Tirana, Korca, Shkodra, Peshkopia, Vlora). Their participation in advocating was of great importance at local level. It spread the understanding of the core causes of corruption in Albania and contributed to the creation of an **open youth society**. The trained high school students denounced cases of corruption they had encountered in their own schools and in other institutions. They mentioned corruption cases encountered commonly in public hospitals and courts.

Students also had the possibility to check the latest updates on the project on the **website** (anticorruption.youthact.al) and see their **peers' engagement** in the other cities, inspiring them to fight against this cause. They also received other general information regarding corruption, **videos** explaining it and the impact it has, examples of corruption in other countries, etc.

The youngsters were eager to do something and **influence positive change** in society. During the training sessions and meetings, students stated that this phenomenon had become a cultural issue in Albania; they used case studies and items from news and investigative TV programmes to examine how corruption can affect effective governance at all levels and have given their **personal solutions** as to how this can be solved.

Achievements:

This project has:

- Increased **youth participation** in advocating anti corruption initiatives through forums, radio and television ads, web and social media campaigns;



- Encouraged young people to actively initiate or join **community initiatives**; and
- Contributed towards the creation of a **transparent and open society**, where young people may denounce without fear and prejudice every single act of corruption performed by an individual, group or political party, as well as actions that help or stimulate corruption.

Number of participants:

100 students from 5 Albanian high schools

Youth Information tool:

Workshops, forums, social media...

For more information:

Lorena Bushi, operations@youthact.al, www.youthact.al





Austria
Bundesnetzwerk Österreichische Jugendinfos
(Austrian Youth Information Centres)
September 2014 - present

3.8 EureProjekte

Description:

Young people are bursting with ideas. In order to utilise and support this inspiration, the initiative EureProjekte (**YourProjects**) was brought into being. EureProjekte is an initiative of the Federal Ministry of Families and Youth and is carried out by the National Network of Austrian Youth Information Centres. **Young people aged 14 to 24** with an interest in Austria can apply for a **grant of up to 500 Euros**. In addition to this initial funding, they also receive an individual project consultation with employees of the youth information centres in the Federal States. Funding is granted to projects or project ideas that meet the basic eligibility criteria in form and content and have been chosen by a jury in a selection process. Project ideas must be creative and innovative, open up new spaces that contribute to social diversity and promote cooperation. There are no limits to the topics: arts and culture, environment, health, sustainability, social involvement, society, technology, sport, etc.!

Achievements:

By December 2016, more than 200 projects have been supported. Collectively, the funded projects have reached more than 9,000 (young) people across Austria.

Number of participants:

more than 9,000 young people

For more information:

Daniela Rosenbeiger, daniela.rosenbeiger@jugendinfo.at, www.eureprojekte.at



Chapter 4: Autonomy & Wellbeing

By Matthew Seebach - Head of Youth Work Practice - Youth Work Ireland

A fundamental challenge for all young people is to find the information and learn to use information required to confidently and successfully manage their own lives, develop their independence and make positive healthy choices to support their wellbeing. **Youth information**, has an important role in this supporting **autonomy and well-being**. Firstly, because it provides quality information about all aspects of young people's wellbeing including their mental, physical and sexual health. As well, youth information provides resources and skills that will lead young people to develop their ability to both decide for themselves how they want to live, and to secure the resources required to live independently.

While other forms of youth work can easily claim to likewise support young people in these goals, youth information provides an important role for at least one reason. Consider that for most young people, their engagement with autonomy and well-being is an **evolving process** in which young people begin by addressing smaller, easier challenges, in terms of their health and personal independence and then progress to more complex, difficult challenges that lead to major transitions and steps in their lives.

Youth information workers have a particular expertise, unique to their profession of **translating information** and presenting it at the level that young people need it at the time when they need it. In this way youth information enables young people to address small challenges, when it is time for small challenges, and significant challenges when it is time for these. It provides exactly the information that is appropriate to the **individual and circumstances**.

Moreover, youth information has a special role in supporting autonomy and wellbeing in the sense that autonomy is also about young people making decisions about their wellbeing and independence that are truly their own. In this sense, youth information workers provide **crucial assistance** to young people in one of the most important developmental

processes, or transitions in their lives, that of taking on of **autonomous decision making**.

Youth information supports young people in this process in that youth information workers support young people to make informed decisions. They help young people to identify, gather, sort and allocate value and meaning to information. They help young people to **identify the options** in terms of the information they have gathered and they help young people to identify and understand the consequences for each option. Youth information workers do all of this in a manner that is **non-judgmental** and with positive regard for the young people they work with. In this way, young people are able to move towards autonomous decision-making in a supported manner.

Many young people may not have occasion to make major life decisions with youth information workers. That doesn't mean that youth information can't offer the opportunity to **develop experience and skills** in decision-making process. Youth information, through its projects and activities provides young people with a safe environment to practice decision-making activities. Through the same processes, youth information workers engage young people in considering information, options and work with them to discuss and consider consequences for decisions.

In this way, youth information can be seen as having a crucial role in supporting the wellbeing and autonomy of all young people.



Croatia
Info zona
Permanent activity

4.1 Info Zone on radio – A weekly radio show

Description:

Info zone on radio is the name of a **radio show** produced entirely by employees and volunteers of Info zone (youth organisation) engaged in the youth information and counselling programme. Info zone on radio was broadcast for more than 8 years on the public radio station "Radio Split", as a one-hour show and was the result of continuous cooperation between professionals (main editor, technicians and journalists from mainstream media) and youth information workers. Since October 2016, Info zone on radio has been part of the local community radio station "Sunce" (every Tuesday, 30 minutes).

Info zone has been active in the field of youth information since 2008. Apart from providing face-to-face youth information and organising public events (inside and outside of the YIC space), Info zone uses different media tools to spread quality youth information and promote **youth activism and participation** (web portal, YouTube channel with audio and video materials, Facebook page, printed magazine, radio show). The radio show in particular enables us to talk about topics which are not often discussed by the mainstream media, to inform both young people and other citizens about youth issues, to promote different programmes and opportunities by and for youth, and to monitor stakeholder activities in the field of youth empowerment. The radio show also has an important role in **networking** activities.

Achievements:

In one year we produce around **40 radio shows**, hosting around **100 young people** and representatives of youth organisations and institutions active in the field of youth. The main topics covered by the radio shows are youth information, youth activism, youth participation, youth leisure time and promotion of mobility programmes. The team in charge of production consists of 6 people (two professional youth information workers and the rest are volunteers). The volunteers are in charge of creating shorter **reports and questionnaires**, as well as working on editing recorded materials. More than 100 hours of voluntary work is invested in the production of the show per year and all volunteers are supported by professionals.

The radio is still an interesting tool for **disseminating information**, despite the fact that there were fears it would be "forgotten" by new generations or replaced by online tools. The combination of "conservative" production (live broadcast) and the support of online tools (web portal, social network tools and online storage of the produced material via the podcast channel) can still be an attractive form of youth information work and a great support in networking with actors in the field of youth and therefore we recommend it to all youth information workers and their organisations, especially when they want to **reach young people** in rural and other areas who face obstacles to participating in activities organised inside youth information centres.

Youth Information tool:

Youth Media/Radio show

For more information:

Darko Čop, darko@infozona.hr





Spain
Instituto Andaluz de la Juventud
(Andalusian Youth Institute)
started in 2016

4.2 Don't risk it! – A peer-to-peer youth information project about sexual health and reproduction

Description:

Don't risk it! is a **peer-to-peer youth information** project about **sexual health** and reproduction issues, promoted and funded by the regional Ministry of Equality and Social Policy of Andalusia (Spain). This action is in partnership with the Red Cross in Andalusia.

Due to the increasing number of young people who suffer from sexually transmitted infections (STIs), a number which has now returned to levels seen in the 90s, the Andalusian Youth Institute (IAJ) decided to promote a new campaign, the main objective of which is to provide information about the different means of **avoiding STIs**. In other words: inform to prevent.

To achieve this goal, the IAJ collaborated with the **Red Cross Youth**, which is present all over Andalusia. This allowed sending information to a maximum number of young people. Furthermore, young people in Andalusia are being provided with information on this topic in places where they get together, such as concerts, festivals, universities, etc.

What are we doing?

During the campaign, Red Cross Youth developed, in each of the municipalities identified, at least one STI awareness action, consisting of:

The deployment of resources and campaign activities in areas with a **high concentration of youth** leisure activities and at the busiest times to target a maximum number of young people.

Installing tents, stands or similar equipment in the chosen area. This space is used as an **information point** and the intervention is coordinated from there.

The team of **volunteer participants** attends those who approach the information point.

The final distribution of areas of intervention are agreed upon between the IAJ and Red Cross Youth in Andalusia.

Youth groups provide **initial information** about the campaign and encourage young people to go through the information point.

Volunteers provide information to young people about common STIs, and deliver the promotional and informative **campaign material** designed for this purpose.



Volunteers take a **quantitative registration** of the number of people who have been treated during the intervention, both directly and indirectly.

Each intervention lasts a minimum of 2 hours and may extend up to 3 hours if there is significant interest among the target group.

The primary way to get information is through different offices. However, the Andalusian Youth Institute is also responding to requests through **social media** (Twitter, Facebook, etc.) and e-mail.

Achievements:

This action, which is still being developed, but it has reached so far **over 16,000 direct and indirect participants** throughout the eight provinces in Andalusia.

Number of participants:

7,200 direct participants, over 9,300 indirect participants

Youth Information tool:

Peer-to-peer

For more information:

Alicia Murillo López, alicia.murillo@juntadeandalucia.es



Luxembourg

African House Luxembourg in collaboration with the National Youth Information Centre and the Belgian Institute for Research, Training and Action on Migration

2 February 2015 - 31 May 2015

4.3 United for Employment

Description:

During four months, we accompanied a group of young people of different origins in their first steps leading to employment. The aim of the project was to help young people legally residing in Luxembourg to become better integrated in the Luxembourgish **labour market**. 75% of young participants looked for a blue-collar job and 25% for a white-collar job. Most of the young participants came from either Sub-Saharan Africa, or Portugal. We offered them **professional advice** tailored to their personal needs, including how to develop their competences, how to present themselves to future employers, how to **look for a job** in an efficient way and how to build their first **professional network**. We also organised collective meetings that enabled young participants to share their experience (positive or negative) with other peers facing the same difficulties. The project culminated with speed **meetings with entrepreneurs**. These exchanges allowed participants to better understand their mutual needs.

The project **United for Employment** was financially supported by Delhaize Group Fund within its programme for the promotion of social cohesion in local communities.

Achievements:

- Empowerment of the youth with regard to the labour market;
- Building a first professional network;
- Matching with entrepreneurs; and
- Exchanges with peers.

During the project, 10% of young participants found a job.

Number of participants:

53 young people of different nationalities

Youth Information tool:

Speed meetings between unemployed youth with immigrant backgrounds and entrepreneurs

For more information:

David Foka, info@maisondafrique.lu, Andrea Gerstnerová, andrea.gerstnerova@maisondafrique.lu





Sweden
 City of Solna
 (Solna Unginfo)
 5 - 12 July 2015

4.4 Body & Mind: Health

Description:

For 8 days, 46 young people and youth workers from Denmark, Italy, France, England and Sweden participated in a project about **healthy lifestyles**. The aim was to increase awareness about **mental health/illness** and highlight the importance of a healthy lifestyle.

The participants were exposed to different kinds of **training and workshops** that challenged them both as individuals and as a group. They attended lectures about nutrition, entrepreneurship, and motivation etc., held by professionals. Other activities included presentations, training sessions, reflections, self-knowledge activities and discussions.

The project was based on **young peoples' participation**, which is why the variety of techniques should be wide enough to allow the full participation of everyone, regardless of their level of English, previous knowledge, fitness, abilities/disabilities, etc.

Some of the most relevant activities were:

- **Ice-breaking games**, such as climbing and a treasure hunt gave the young people the opportunity to work together solving different problems, exchanging experiences, knowledge and skills and working out alternative solutions in order to achieve results;
- They tried **CrossFit, running, gymnastics, martial arts etc.** and had lectures about mobility, nutrition and motivation. These forms of training allow everyone to participate on their own terms regardless of gender, age, disability, etc; and
- The **chat groups** were another important part of the programme. Divided into small groups with representatives from all countries, they discussed 4 subjects: stereotypes, social media, equality in sports and healthy living. This was one of the most popular activities in the evaluation.

Achievements:

The main achievement of the project was that young people realised other European young people face similar challenges in their daily lives, just under different conditions. This also helped **raise awareness** about their own situations, especially regarding health and nutrition.

The young people were exposed to **new activities** that they may not have tried before.

The Swedish group took pride in having hosted their European peers, which was a big boost for their own self-esteem. Apart from improving their English, making new friends and having fun, the exchange was a learning experience for



everyone involved in this project and the young people now have a network that extends far beyond their own countries.

At local, regional and European level it is important to increase knowledge about a **healthy active lifestyle**, particularly in socio-economically disadvantaged areas, and this is what this project is all about. In Solna, this project had a large impact, as a lot of young people and staff were involved, as well as a lot of generous people who wanted to contribute to this project. Local politicians showed interest in the project and there was a presentation in the town hall for other administrations in the City of Solna.

Number of participants:

40 young people

Youth Information tool:

Youth exchange, interactive workshops, peer-to-peer and discussions groups.

For more information:

Pepe Herrera, Pepe.herrera@solna.se



Austria
 LOGO Jugendmanagement
 in cooperation with beteiligung.st
 From January 2015 until December 2016

4.5 XUND und DU - Young People's Health Conferences

Description:

Enhancing the health competence of young Styrians and promoting a health balance, the biennial project "XUND und DU" (paraphrased as "HEALTH and YOU") is based on the results of the **European Health Literacy**. Funded by the Austrian Ministry of Health and Women's Affairs and the Styrian Provincial Government of Health, this project was implemented in cooperation with two Styrian associations: "LOGO Jugendmanagement", who are specialised in youth information and "beteiligung.st", specialised in **youth participation**.

Achievements:

All in all, **more than 15,000 young people** and 150 associations participated in the project "XUND und DU" in Styria.

The project consisted of the following modules:

Financial support for healthy activities

"XUND und DU" gave youth organisations (e.g. youth centres, social workers, youth clubs...) the opportunity to realise their own **micro projects**, aimed at enhancing the health skills of young people. More than 200 different activities with over 12,000 young participants, which took place all over Styria, were supported by "XUND und DU" with a maximum of 300 euros.

Youth events

At seven big events – so called "**Youth-Health-Conferences**" – the supported activities were presented to more than 4,000 young people. These conferences showed a variety of opportunities for promoting physical and mental health. In addition, regional organisations offered various activities, dealing with areas such as "exercise – nutrition – mental health – prevention of diseases" and presented the range of regional health enhancing activities.

Networking

All over Styria a new network of specialist departments of health, youth workers and educational facilities has dealt with the topic of "health competence" and "adolescence".

Youth Peers

20 young people acted the role of journalists and spread the idea of "**health competence**" in their peer groups using their own channels (e.g. social media, photography...).

Number of participants:

16,000 young people and 150 youth associations



For more information:

Johannes Heher, Johannes.heher@logo.at, www.xundunddu.st





Reproduction or use of this publication is possible provided the source is acknowledged and permission is granted by the copyright holders.

For more information, please visit
www.sheryica.org  



European youth information
and counselling agency

eryica a.s.b.l.
info@eryica.org
www.eryica.org
www.sheryica.org

