

# ID TALKS!

*This series of ID Talks is about inclusive youth work policies and practices at local level. We'll discover the realities of different municipalities and of local youth work actors across Europe, from rural to cosmopolitan areas.*



## ID Talks:

EGL  
VILLAGE  
TOWN  
METROPOLIS  
QUALITY LABEL

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## ABOUT SALTO

...‘Support and **A**dvanced **L**earning and **T**raining **O**pportunities within the Erasmus+: Youth in Action and European Solidarity Corps programmes’. The European Commission has created a network of seven SALTO-YOUTH Resource Centres to enhance the implementation of the EU Erasmus+: Youth in Action and European Solidarity Corps programmes, which provide young people with valuable non-formal learning experiences.

SALTO’s aim is to support the implementation of the European Erasmus+: Youth in Action and European Solidarity Corps Programmes with regard to priorities such as Social Inclusion, Diversity, Participation, and Solidarity. SALTO also supports co-operation with regions such as EuroMed, South-East Europe, or Eastern Europe and The Caucasus and coordinates all training and co-operation activities, as well as information tools for National Agencies.

In these European priority areas, SALTO-YOUTH provides resources, information, and training for National Agencies and European youth workers. Most of these resources are offered and disseminated at [www.SALTO-YOUTH.net](http://www.SALTO-YOUTH.net). Find online the [European Training Calendar](#), the [Toolbox for Training and Youth Work](#), the database of youth field trainers active at the European level ([Trainers Online for Youth or TOY](#)), links to online resources, and much more.

SALTO-YOUTH actively co-operates with other actors in the European youth field, among them the National Agencies of the Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps programmes, the Council of Europe, the European Youth Forum, European youth workers and trainers, and training organisers.

### **THE SALTO-YOUTH INCLUSION AND DIVERSITY RESOURCE CENTRE [WWW.SALTO-YOUTH.NET/INCLUSION/](http://WWW.SALTO-YOUTH.NET/INCLUSION/)**

The SALTO-YOUTH Inclusion and Diversity Resource Centre (based in Belgium Flanders) works together with the European Commission to support the inclusion of young people with fewer opportunities in the Erasmus+: Youth in Action and European Solidarity Corps programmes. Through that, it works to contribute to social cohesion in society at large. SALTO Inclusion and Diversity also supports the National Agencies and youth workers in their inclusion work by providing training, developing youth work methods, disseminating information via the newsletter, etc. By offering opportunities for training, exchange, and reflection on inclusion practice and diversity management, SALTO Inclusion & Diversity works towards the visibility, accessibility, and transparency of its inclusion & diversity work and resources, and towards making ‘inclusion of young people with fewer opportunities’ and ‘positive diversity management’ a widely supported priority.

For more information and resources, have a look at the Inclusion & Diversity pages at [www.SALTO-YOUTH.net/Inclusion/](http://www.SALTO-YOUTH.net/Inclusion/)



## DISCLAIMER

This magazine contains pictures as a result of the Graphic Recording which is an integral part of all the ID Talks events. There are four types of styles throughout the whole magazine.

- **General Cover Picture.** It is used for promotional reasons throughout the social media channels and the dissemination materials and it depicts the logo of SALTO Inclusion & Diversity, the title, and the graphic elements of each version of the ID Talks events. It is displayed as a cover picture of each ID Talks version.
- **Portrait of Speaker.** It depicts each speaker and a few graphic recording elements such as written parts of their "speech" and/or any other graphics according to the style of each ID Talks version. It is displayed on top of the speaker's description page.
- **Main Graphic Recording Card.** It is used for promotional reasons throughout the social media channels and the dissemination materials and it depicts the logo of SALTO Inclusion & Diversity, the title, and the graphic elements of each version of the ID Talks events, including the specific name of the event, the portrait of the speaker, written quotes of their "speech" and/or any other graphics. It is displayed on top of the first page of each article.
- **Graphic Recording Elements.** Throughout each article, the graphic recording elements complement the text with essential parts of each speaker's "talk".



# I & D Talks

## “Europe Goes Local”

### What is it all about?

“ID Talks” is a series of 5 online workshops on 5 major topics to promote inclusion & diversity (ID) and quality youth work. It features youth workers, professionals and volunteers, from all over the world to share insights, research findings, food for thought, good practices or inspirational stories. They will guide participants through the pressing matters and challenges affecting Inclusion & Diversity and inspire them to make their programmes and organisations more inclusive, embrace human differences, look ahead and picture how the future of youth work and Inclusion & Diversity might be.

Each workshop begins with an input from a guest speaker. Afterwards, participants have the opportunity to engage in the discussion, ask questions and share about their own realities and experiences.

### For whom?

- Youth workers, youth leaders, professionals and volunteers involved in ID in the EU youth programmes, as well as all those interested in youth work and inclusion & diversity topics.

### Why should you join?

- Get food for thought and learn from inspirational ID stories.
- Learn about ID topics from the youth work sector and beyond.
- Get information, inspiration, methods to help the youth sector address ID.
- Put some more quality in your (international) youth work.
- Identify and learn how to tackle existing and future challenges within ID.



**Event Dates:**

- 5 February (13h CET) > **ID Talks EGL** - Find out what is Europe Goes Local, its need, scope and vision. Discover important tools for the quality development of local youth work. What is the European charter on local youth work about? Let's discover together how local youth policy can support inclusion and get an insight into the state of play of municipal youth work in Europe. Guest speakers: **Judit Balogh**, EGL, Belgium · **Jonas Agdur**, Sweden & **Marko Kovacic**, Croatia
- 19 February (13h CET) > **ID Talks Village** - Young people living in small rural communities are often overlooked and the local youth work offer is rarely accessible for them. At the same time, limited resources invested in small communities could have a significant, visible impact. Come and discuss the (dis)advantages and peculiarities of youth work development in a village. What does inclusion mean in such a context? Where do rural and international youth work intersect? Guest speaker: **Victor-Catalin Toma**, International Village, Romania
- 5 March (13h CET) > **ID Talks Town** - What is the key to an efficient local youth work strategy in a mid-size town? What do you need to take into account and how can you get all stakeholders on board? We discuss the most important issues young people are facing and how local youth work can address them. Find out about the specifics of municipal youth work development in Eastern Partnership countries, where youth work practice are not always backed by policies. Guest speaker: **Dragan Atanasov**, Republic of North Macedonia
- 19 March (13h CET) > **ID Talks Metropolis** - Is it possible to provide "local" youth work in a "global" capital? Find out how you accommodate the needs and expectations of over 300,000 young people, and make them feel seen and heard. The city of Paris is keeping inclusion and diversity at the heart of its youth work practice, using the European charter on local youth work as a guideline to manage the complexity of youth work in a metropolitan area. Guest speaker: **Thomas Rogé**, France
- 2 April (13h CET) > **ID Talks Quality Label** - Discover how you can create a more systematic approach towards municipal youth work. What is quality youth work and how can young people with fewer opportunities access and benefit from it? With the "child-friendly city" label, Bataljong is setting a standard for municipalities in Flanders, Belgium. At the same time, this quality label could be adapted and replicated in other countries. Why not yours? Guest speaker: **Tieme Verlinde & Hannes Vanmeenen**, Bataljong, Belgium-FL

## ID Talks: Quality Label

*What is quality youth work and how can young people with fewer opportunities access and benefit from it?*



### **GUEST SPEAKERS: TIEME VERLINDE & HANNES VANMEENEN**

Tieme Verlinde coordinates the broad youth policy team of Bataljong. He introduces Flanders' certification for "Child Friendly Cities," emphasizing the integration of children's rights into local policy through a three-step toolkit. Certification lasts six years and involves meeting criteria such as engaging children and stakeholders in policy-making. Bataljong oversees toolkit adaptation and serves as an ongoing ambassador for the initiative.

Hannes has been working for the city of Kortrijk for 20 years. Kortrijk has 80,000 inhabitants, 20% of whom are under 20. For the last 12 years, he was responsible for the child-friendly city programme. Through that programme, we give all young inhabitants the chance to create the city they want to live in.





# Article

Tieme Verlinde & Hannes Vanmeenen



## Child Friendly Cities Certification in Flanders

In this ID Talk about ‘Quality Label’ Tieme Verlinde (Bataljong) talked about the Child Friendly Certification (CFC) in Flanders. Bataljong is an umbrella organization for cities and municipalities in Flandres and the Dutch-speaking part of Brussels. One of their main projects is hosting and supporting this certification system. Hannes Vanmeenen is responsible for the child friendly city program in the city of Kortrijk and explained about how they make this concrete in Kortrijk.

## Child-friendliness in Flandres: how it all started

In Flandres the local governments got more autonomy for youth policy since 2013. Before this moment, the Flemish government was in charge of selecting priorities for local youth policy. One year later, the first Flemish CFC certification was handed out (2014). Today, we have more than 10 years of expertise in working on child friendliness via the certification system as an instrument assuring children's rights. Bataljong is taking care of sharing the lessons learned and good practices.



MORE AUTONOMY is  
GIVEN TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS  
REGARDING YOUTH POLICY



CREATION OF THE  
"CHILD-FRIENDLY CITY"  
certification



## How does the certification system work?

Local governments in Flanders can run a process towards an application for getting certification. This preliminary phase takes more or less two years. In the meantime, a local collaboration between many stakeholders arises. It's a qualitative and process-oriented approach.

After this preliminary phase, the local government submits an application to a jury. Self-assessment and taking care of the learning process are very important. The jury, a pool of 15 experts, evaluates the candidacies of the cities and municipalities. This evaluation is based on 6 building blocks of child friendliness. This certification is valid for 6 years. After 6 years, a prolongation is possible. After 3 years, there is already an interim meeting between the jury and the local government.



The city of Kortrijk started in 2012 with 4 programs, 4 transversal priorities of the local government. One of the programs focused on children and youngsters. The other programs: poverty, social inclusion, and climate. Every program has a manager who works organization-wide and cooperates with a lot of local partners. Kortrijk received the child friendly label in 2016 and extended it for another six years in 2022.

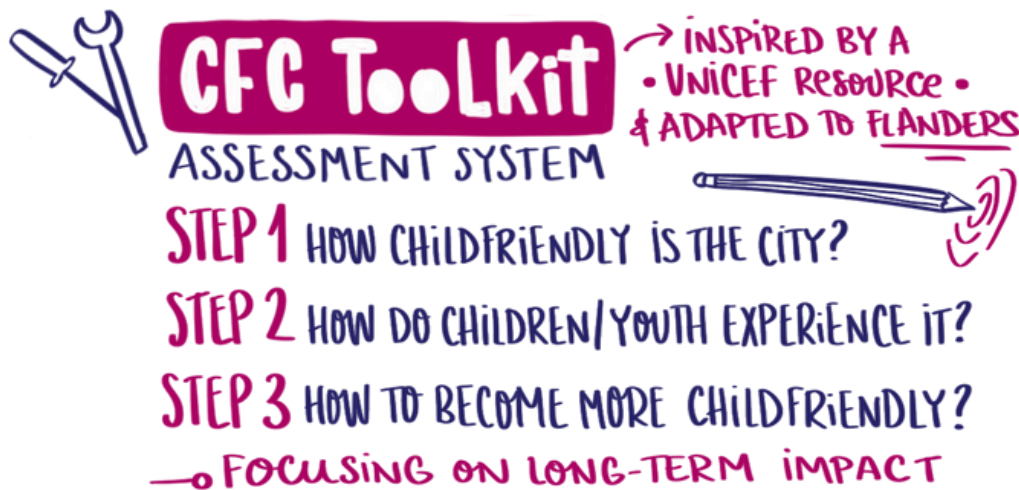
### Toolkit: a three-step assessment

In order to support the preliminary phase, Bataljong offers a toolkit to cities and municipalities in Flanders. This toolkit is based on an international toolkit developed by UNICEF. The toolkit is an assessment of three steps

Step 1: investigate how childfriendly is the city? Instruments are data-analysis, policy indicators, survey, focus groups...

Step 2: investigate how children and youngsters experience the city? Get to know the perception and experience of (the variety of) young people.

Step 3: create a long-term vision and strategy on how the city can become more childfriendly



In the child friendly city program, Kortrijk has 5 main focus points, determined after a preliminary process:

1. Young Kortrijk Speaks: Full and active citizenship for all the children and young people
2. Young citizens in public space
3. Safe and independent mobility for young citizens
4. Being young in Kortrijk: leisure and discovering talents
5. Feel good about yourself, basic services, and a healthy environment

## 6 building blocks of child-friendliness

Every local government should prioritize all of these building blocks in order to realise children's rights. It is important to notice that you cannot just skip one or more building blocks. It is a package deal. Local governments should create a vision and strategy about each of these building blocks.

### The building blocks:

1. A child friendly city or municipality recognizes and gives space to diversity among children and young people and the diversity of contexts in which they grow up

Some examples of Kortrijk:

- Through bridge figures (who reach out from schools but focus on supporting the family context), they invest strongly in the cooperation with schools from the 'knowledge' that (as good as) all children go to school.
- The 'TAJO' project brings 10- to 14-year-olds into contact with numerous professions on Saturdays to discover their interests and talents.
- With the 'Integrally Accessible Theater' project, a clear vision of an LGBTQI+ friendly cultural policy grew within the Kortrijk cultural landscape.

2. A vision about being young in your city of municipality, and what it should be. This vision is shared between politicians, civil servants, and citizens

3. A Permanent dialogue between the local government and children and young people.

4. Local government takes a direction role and cooperates with citizens and civil society.

5. High quality basic services, for example, schools, childcare, hospitals, safe roads, public space...

**SHARED OWNERSHIP**  
**GREATER STRENGTH**  
**• MORE IMPACT •**



Some examples of Kortrijk:

- A high-quality leisure and after-school program offer opportunities for everyone. In doing so, the city maintains a child-centred vision where children have freedom of choice and can taste different disciplines to discover their own interests and talents.
- Kortrijk is strongly committed to basic services through neighbourhood development. For instance, 10 decentralised libraries have been integrated in existing open meeting places in neighbourhoods, close to citizens and primary schools. Anyone can go there with any kind of question.

6. Stimulating and facilitating solidarity & mutual involvement in favour of living together in a sustainable way

Some examples of Kortrijk:

- For the city of Kortrijk participation is and will remain an important tool to promote citizenship and co-ownership. It is not only about the outcome. The dynamic created between citizens is at least as important. Co-citizenship produces proud and engaged citizens.
- Their ongoing dialogue with children and young people should also help them identify and channel conflicts of interest in an early stage. If they succeed in allowing conflicting interests to clash constructively in advance, they also create space to look for solutions together. It is a challenge that the Young Kortrijk Speaks project is experimenting with.



**References:**

- More information: [tieme.verlinde@bataljong.be](mailto:tieme.verlinde@bataljong.be) and [Hannes.vanmeenen@kortrijk.be](mailto:Hannes.vanmeenen@kortrijk.be).
- Visit [www.kvsg.be](http://www.kvsg.be) for more information about the certification system.
- Toolkit: <https://bataljong.be/boost-je-kennis/kindvriendelijke-steden-en-gemeenten/kindvriendelijk-beleid/ga-aan-de-slag-met-onze>.
- Bataljong in general: [www.bataljong.be](http://www.bataljong.be),  
<https://www.linkedin.com/company/17960964/>,  
<https://www.instagram.com/bataljong/>



# ID Talks

## Quality Label



## EDITORIAL INFORMATION

Published in April 2025 by SALTO-YOUTH Inclusion and Diversity Resource Centre (Support & Advanced Learning and Training Opportunities within The Erasmus+: Youth in Action and European Solidarity Corps programmes)

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***On behalf of the SALTO Inclusion & Diversity!***

