

EU Strategy for Youth

Investing and Empowering

2009 - 2018

YOPA



Youth
in Action
Programme

2012



YOPA



Youth for Participation Association

**YOPA - Youth for Participation
Association**

Hungary



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Preamble

This Proposal was made from materials and outcomes of a training course "Theory and/or Practice?!" , which was held in Szeged, Hungary at 03 – 10 August 2012 and supported by Youth in Action Programme and run by YOPA Association.

This Proposal makes an attempt to propose how the Strategy can be put into Practice locally and internationally. 23 youth workers from Hungary, Italy, Sweden, United Kingdom, Greece, Turkey, Spain and Portugal worked with the document made by European Commission and shared their experiences and opinions how the Strategy can be useful for everyone and how it can be realised. They came out some ideas which already exist and some which seem to be something new.

This Proposal tries to inspire everyone who deal with young people to get acquainted with the Strategy itself and give some tips and hints how it's objectives can be achieved in practice.

Good luck with this for All of us!

A YOPA team



Field of Action 1 – Education

Objective:

Complementary to formal education, non-formal education for young people should be supported to contribute to Lifelong Learning in Europe, by developing its quality, recognising its outcomes, and integrating it better with formal education.

Actions by Member States and Commission within their respective spheres of competence:

- Develop non-formal learning opportunities as one of a range of actions to address early school leaving;
- Fully use the range of tools established at EU level for the validation of skills and the recognition of qualifications;
- Promote learning mobility of all young people;
- Encourage cooperation between education and youth policy makers;
- Address gender stereotypes via formal and non-formal education systems;
- Make available good quality guidance and counselling services for young people;
- Develop participative structures within the educational system as well as cooperation between schools, families and local communities;

The Commission will further develop the self-assessment function of Europass, in particular for skills developed in non-formal settings and provide certificates such as Youthpass.

How can we put the theory into reality?

Recommendations for tools and projects

Advanced Youthpass:

In order to better integrate non-formal learning into formal education, and give youngsters key competences (which can be acquired by non-formal education) for finding a job, it would be useful to integrate Youthpass into national formal education systems in a way of:

- have a resolution from the European Commission motivating member states to make Youthpass part of the laws and regulations concerning educational systems officially;
- have obligations and regulations on a national level for having non-formal education activities in public schools, held by experts;
- finding and/or funding local experts to invent new non-formal methods suitable for public schools.

Education should be:

- Flexible;
- Inclusive;
- Response of changing of the society;
- Preventive;
- Contribute to European citizenship.



Field of Action 2 – Employment

Objectives:

Employment policy action in Member States and at EU level should be coordinated across the four components of flexicurity in order to facilitate transitions from school to work or inactivity or unemployment to work. Once in work, young people should be enabled to make upward transitions. Increase and improve investments in providing the right skills for those jobs in demand on the labour market, with a better matching in the short term and better anticipation in the longer term of the skills needed.

Actions by Member States and Commission within their respective spheres of competence:

- Ensure that youth employment remains a priority;
- Promote cross-border professional and vocational opportunities for young people, including early familiarisation of young people to the world of work;
- Develop youth work as a resource to support youth employability;
- Encourage cooperation between employment and youth policy makers and youth involvement in employment policy;
- Ensure that the EU funds available for promoting youth employment, in particular the European Social Fund, are effectively used;
- Develop short-term measures in their recovery plans to stimulate youth employment as well as structural measures in favour of youth;
- Develop career guidance and counselling services;
- Lower barriers to the free movement of labour across the EU;
- Promote quality internships within education and training and/or employment schemes;
- Improve childcare so as to help reconciliation between professional and private life of young adults.

How can we put the theory into reality?

Recommendations for tools and projects

Profmol (Promoting free movement of labour)

To have an umbrella organisation for Eurodesk offices and Eures to be able to broadcast information of national labour market in order to make unemployed youngsters able to find a job abroad:

- needs to be Europe wide accessible, for information and counselling;
- needs resolution from national level for the appropriate reports and researches;
- local benefit (both hosting and origin country).

Formal and non – formal education should target the following fields in order to increase the employment rates

- recognition of qualifications;
- mobility;
- cooperation between education, labour market and policy makers;
- narrow the gap between needs and offers!



Field of Action 3 – Creativity and Entrepreneurship

Objective:

Talent development, creative skills, entrepreneurial mindsets and cultural expressions of young people should be encouraged amongst all youth.

Actions by Member States and Commission within their respective spheres of competence:

- Further develop 'start up' funds and encourage recognition of junior enterprise;
- Make new technologies readily available to empower young talent and attract interest in arts and science;
- Promote contribution of youth work to the creativity and entrepreneurship of young people;
- Widen access to creative tools, particularly those involving new technologies.

How can we put the theory into reality?

Recommendations for tools and projects

- Youth Start up Agency that provides to:
 - give (cheap) structures and spaces;
 - help enterprises in which are the steps to follow (action plan, business plan);
 - put experts at disposal (economic experts, marketing ones);
 - the support lasts one year at least (till they can survive by themselves).
- Small money? -> contest (just 1 enterprise will be supported)!
- Different programs to help youngsters becoming entrepreneurs.
- Guideline how to apply for a start up!
- Warm-up: give young people opportunities to develop their ideas/projects – give them financial support!
- Costs when creating a company should be lower!
- We need to motivate people in the educational institutions to become entrepreneurs! Integrate in formal education the practical questions about start-ups!
- Workshops are needed where successful entrepreneurs can share their experiences!
- „Company hotel” – the council pays a place where start-ups can do their activities for minimal money!
- Start-ups can be (should be) simplified
- Sharing ideas and opinions about how to promote and increase „entrepreneur spirit”!



Field of Action 4 – Health and Sport

Objective:

Encourage healthy living for young people and physical education, sporting activity and collaboration between youth workers, health professionals and sporting organisations with a focus on preventing and treating obesity, injury, addictions and substance abuse, and maintaining mental and sexual health.

Actions by Member States and Commission within their respective spheres of competence:

- Implement the Council Resolution on Health and Well-being of Young People and encourage youth fitness and sport by applying the EU Physical Activity Guidelines;
- Promote training opportunities on health for youth workers and youth leaders;
- Encourage cooperation between health and youth policy makers, and youth involvement in health policy;
- Mobilise all stakeholders at local level to detect and help young people at risk;
- Develop tailor-made information on health for young people, particularly those at risk of social exclusion, and mobilise youth information networks;
- Encourage peer-to-peer health education at school and in youth organisations.

How can we put the theory into reality?

Recommendations for tools and projects

YESO (Youth European Summer Olympics) Annual meeting of European youngsters

- competition between countries or euro zone territories;
- different host country every year;
- challenging games (challenging participants' creativity);
- activities adapted to the culture of the host country;
- inclusion of short –term EVS volunteers organising this Olympics;
- brief introduction seminars;
- workshop per day about healthy cuisine and hygiene (different countries) and entrepreneurship.



Field of Action 5 – Participation

Objective:

Ensure full participation of youth in society, by increasing youth participation in the civic life of local communities and in representative democracy, by supporting youth organisations as well as various forms of 'learning to participate', by encouraging participation of non-organised young people and by providing quality information services.

Actions by Member States and Commission within their respective spheres of competence:

- Develop quality standards on youth participation, information and consultation;
- Further support politically and financially youth organisations, as well as national and local youth councils;
- Promote e-democracy to reach out to more non-organised youth;
- Further develop opportunities for debate between European/national institutions and young people;
- The Commission will revamp the European Youth Portal and promote greater outreach to young people.

How can we put the theory into reality?

Recommendations for tools and projects

- Use marketing tools to reach as many young people as we can to promote participation possibilities (guerrilla marketing);
- Organised events, debates or meetings where politicians, youngsters and youth workers can work together discussing different topics from meeting to meeting. These events should be organised continuously;
- Create format to be spread by Facebook to get the opinion of young people.



Field of Action 6 – Social Inclusion

Objective:

Prevent poverty and social exclusion among disadvantaged youth groups and break their intergenerational transmission by mobilising all actors involved in the life of youth (parents, teachers, social workers, health professionals, youth workers, young people themselves, police and justice, employers...).

Actions by Member States and Commission within their respective spheres of competence:

- Address issues related to teenagers and young adults, in particular those with fewer opportunities, in social protection and inclusion policies;
- Optimise the use of EU Funds and experimental programmes to support social integration of young people;
- Realise the full potential of youth work and youth community centres as means of inclusion;
- Develop intercultural awareness and competences for all young people;
- Encourage youth involvement in inclusion policy and cooperation between policy makers;
- Recognise challenges overcome by disadvantaged youth, including through special awards;
- Address homelessness, housing and financial exclusion;
- Promote access to quality services – e.g. transport, e-inclusion, health, social services;
- Promote specific support for young families.

How can we put the theory into reality?

Recommendations for tools and projects

- Use small steps do something in a local level;
- Start with the kids;
- Schools can be a platform marketing a project;
- Empowering youngsters face to face to participate;
- Look for funding and involve youth from different social classes;
- Parents and community leaders: make them understand the importance of engagement;
- Communicate with parents;
- Be honest: to be sincere ... Powerful tool!
- Financially talk with community leaders, politicians...
- Instead of thinking on solutions focus on prevention e.g. give information about drugs, etc.
- Create a system, where youth workers and social workers are the ones who gives voice about how the real situation is and which actions are needed!



Field of Action 7 – Volunteering

Objective:

Support youth volunteering, by developing more voluntary opportunities for young people, making it easier to volunteer by removing obstacles, raising awareness on the value of volunteering, recognising volunteering as an important form of non-formal education and reinforcing cross-border mobility of young volunteers.

Actions by Member States and Commission within their respective spheres of competence:

- Enhance skills recognition through Europass and Youthpass;
- Recognise contributions of youth organisations and non-structured forms of volunteering;
- Reflect on ways to better protect rights of volunteers and assure quality in volunteering, and associate young people and their organisations on the occasion of a possible European Year of Volunteering (2011);
- Develop national approaches on cross-border mobility of young volunteers;
- Develop national approaches for promoting intergenerational solidarity through volunteering.

How can we put the theory into reality?

Recommendations for tools and projects

- Marketing voluntary work both local and national level;
- EU wide and all around the world
- Allocate specific funds to marketing voluntary work within EU/internationally;
- Give incentives such as discount ID cards for volunteers/railways/flight companies;
- Intranet that can be accessed by youth workers;
- Workshops;
- Develop a general volunteer „kit” that organisations can use as a template/guidance for their voluntary work.



Field of Action 8 – Youth and the World

Objective:

Mobilise youth in global policy-making at all levels (local, national and international) using existing youth networks and tools (e.g. structured dialogue) and address climate change and the UN Millennium Development Goals.

Actions by Member States and Commission within their respective spheres of competence:

- Encourage 'green' patterns of consumption and production with young people (e.g. recycling, energy conservation, hybrid vehicles etc.);
- Promote entrepreneurship and volunteering opportunities with regions outside of Europe;
- Support the development of youth work on other continents;
- Raise awareness on fundamental rights and development issues worldwide with young people.

How can we put the theory into reality?

Recommendations for tools and projects

- Double funding to European Youth Capital to have greater impact;
- Provide funding (start-up) for youth entrepreneurs whose business ideas have a positive impact on developing countries;
- Develop intranet system that youth workers can access to post information/ best practices...
- Workshops, promote these two objectives;
- Peer Education to raise awareness of fundamental rights;
- Create a web-radio where information of youth work can be shared.





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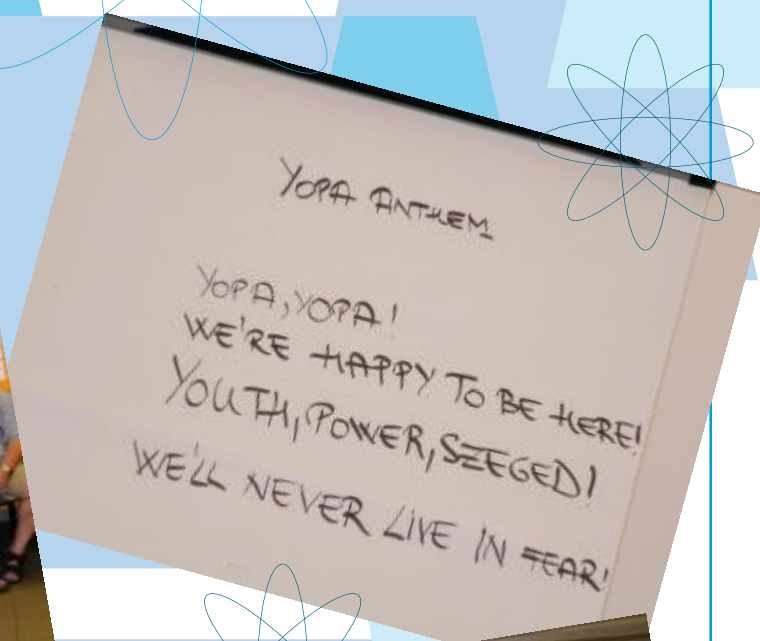
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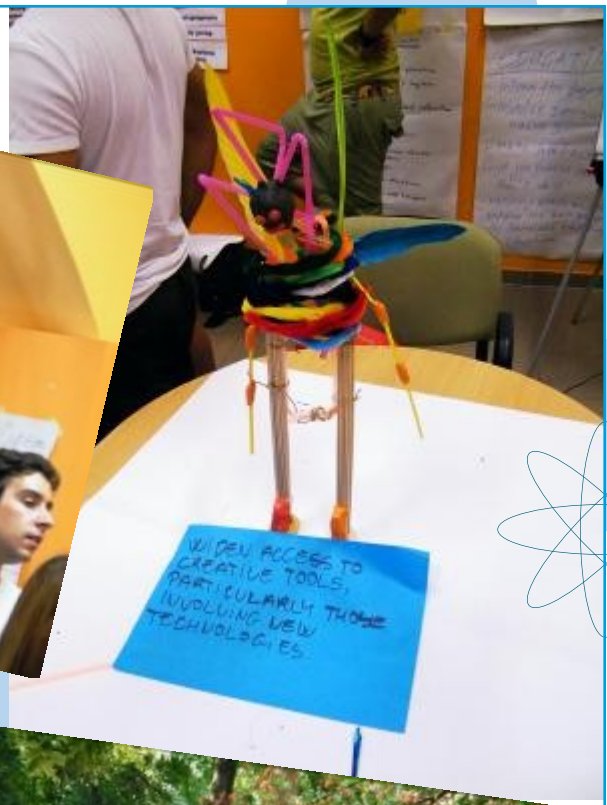
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**2012
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