

## 4. Maximise the impact

### of European Programmes and European youth projects on I&D

When investing in I&D, how can we make sure the impact is as big as possible, both on the (young) people and organisations involved, but also beyond. What can we do for the impact to be LONGER (over time), WIDER (on more people/organisations), STRONGER (in intensity) and GREENER (sustainable)?

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#### Visibility and recognition of the benefits of the experience

##### ACTION 47

##### Recognise participants' learning

- Document the young people's learning (and youth worker's), awareness of the competences gained.
- Adapt recognition tools and the language used within them to be more accessible and understood by a wider audience. Translate language used 'in the bubble' into other phrasing for the recognition to spread more widely (see Milestone 2B).
- Have a public campaign for the recognition of the benefits and impact of participating in Programmes.
- Help young people with fewer opportunities use the learning (and recognition of) to take next steps in their lives.
- Tool: e.g. Youthpass & resources

##### OUTCOMES

- > Awareness of outcomes is increased on personal level.
- > Recognition tools are more used and understood by wider audience.
- > Support for next steps given, improvement of conditions of YPFO.
- > More trust created with I&D beneficiaries.
- > A continuous critical eye given to I&D.

##### ACTION 48

##### Plan for change/for impact with the projects

- Use the I&D projects to generate change:
  - Documenting the European youth project results (in a useful format for specific stakeholders)
  - Sharing the results with others and get them used.
  - Generating visibility and motivating others to do the same
- Tool: e.g. Making Waves (SALTO I&D)

##### OUTCOMES

- > Visibility of outcomes (and programmes) is clear.
- > Change/improvements for I&D in future are detailed.
- > Others are motivated to work on I&D (European youth projects).

## ACTION 49

### Upskill beneficiaries to measure and evidence impact

- Upskill practitioners in research methodologies. Increase competence in:
  - observation and analysis.
  - impact and how to measure change in a project, including different levels and types of impact (tangible and intangible)
  - how to show evidence of impact of a European youth project.
- Include all stakeholders in the research approach (design, collation of data, evaluation of results etc) to make a difference systemically.

#### OUTCOMES

- > *More and different evidence collected.*
- > *An increase of qualitative and observational data collected.*
- > *Professional skills of youth workers are developed.*
- > *Closer connection between practice and research.*
- > *Evidence proves impact.*
- > *Power and resources are made available at organisation level, to implement required changes from the evaluated results.*

## ACTION 50

### Document the impact of I&D projects

- Share good practices, resources and outcomes (in appropriate formats and platforms) and get them known.
- Differentiate between showcasing the impact on individuals/organisations and increasing visibility/promotion of the Programme.
- Research on the effects of participating in European youth projects (focus on YPFO). Track change in knowledge (and attitudes, beliefs and values) before and after participation in projects.
- e. g. RAY MON & RAY LTE
- Compare different data against other (national/European/international).

#### OUTCOMES

- > *More resources and inspiration easily available.*
- > *Clear frame for promotion. Clear separate frame for explaining impact.*
- > *Clear view given of what is the impact, which stimulates buy-in (see Milestone 1).*
- > *Diverse ways of presenting impact and change are accepted*

## Embed the European youth project into the community

### ACTION 51

#### Involve more people

- Widen participation for more impact.
- Involve more people, organisations, services, families from the hosting and sending community in the preparations or activities.
- Provide input and resources to support beneficiaries on how to connect their European youth project with the community.
- Combine international and local level communities.
- Measure/document community impact. Celebrate (together) when milestones have been achieved.

#### OUTCOMES

- > *Wider impact of European Programmes and projects.*
- > *More people know about I&D projects.*
- > *Commitment is increased (see Milestone 1).*

### ACTION 52

#### Develop social capital

- Reinforce networking, leverage opportunities through connections and interpersonal relationships. Bring people together and create contacts.
- Provide mapping (at local, regional, national, international levels) of the youth work field. Know your community.

#### OUTCOMES

- > *YPFO and organisations increase their network/social capital.*
- > *More (shared) resources available for more people in the community.*
- > *Stakeholders are more visible and more 'accessible' for more people.*
- > *Stronger interconnection between stakeholders.*

### ACTION 53

#### Create synergies

- Cooperate with other local public realities (policy makers, networks, charities, organisations, etc) to implement I&D projects.
- Share knowledge and commitment from Road 1 with these other stakeholders.
- Link international opportunities to the local level.
- Connect cross-sectorially (formal education, advocacy organisations, charity/third sector, sports, private social organisations, social enterprises etc) where appropriate.

#### OUTCOMES

- > *Buy-in increases from local level and from other sectors.*
- > *Stronger European youth projects with support from local/other stakeholders.*
- > *Other sectors get to know EU youth programmes/your I&D work.*



## Improve follow-up Actions

### ACTION 54

#### Support participants' next steps

- Provide ongoing support / coaching / mentoring for young people (and youth workers where they are participants). Guide the YPFO in the next steps in their lives, based on the I&D project.
- Encourage young people (and youth workers) to grow into more and different projects after their experience. Provide structural support for this.
- Involve the target group in all the stages on return home from a European project, to maximise the impact, and keep it tailored and relevant to them.
- Eg. focus on smaller groups with specific needs so next steps can be adapted for them
- Support the young people in the use of their learning and Youthpass certificate.
- Create space for continued involvement for YPFO (next projects, Alumni organisations, Europepers, European Solidarity network)
- Make sure there are resources available for this.

#### OUTCOMES

- > *Longer impact of experience on the individual, leading to better life.*
- > *More European youth projects have more impact on community.*
- > *Young people (and youth workers) become more active in organisation/ society.*

### ACTION 55

#### Create future opportunities for I&D organisations' involvement

- Provide possibilities for I&D organisations to stay active e.g. in NA I&D working group, in professional organisations, invite them as experts, future training/projects, etc.
- Link them to national and international I&D events.
- Share resources and opportunities between networked organisations.
- Make sure there are resources available for this.

#### OUTCOMES

- > *Networks are built and strengthened.*
- > *Connection and opportunities are maintained.*

### ACTION 56

#### Invest in sustainability after the European youth project ends

- Monitor the continuing impact on individuals and organisations.
- Consider other funding (local/regional/national/bilateral/ international) for how to make the European youth project more sustainable after project grant ends.
- Consider how resources can be re-used and recycled afterwards.

#### OUTCOMES

- > *Long-term project management is encouraged.*
- > *Participants and other stakeholders are kept on-board and connected for sustainable networking.*