

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

Download this and other SALTO Inclusion & Diversity booklets for free at www.SALTO-YOUTH.net/Inclusion/. This document does not necessarily reflect the official views of the European Commission, the SALTO Inclusion & Diversity Resource Centre or the organisation co-operating with them.

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. 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/

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/



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: **Artur Najaryan** and **Mariam Poghosyan**, Armenia
- 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: **Marte Ingels**, Bataljong, Belgium-FL

ID Talks: EGL

Find out what is Europe Goes Local, its need, scope and vision.



JONAS AGDUR
(Sweden)

MARKO KOVACIC
(Croatia)

JUDIT BALOGH
(Belgium)

GUEST SPEAKERS: JUDIT BALOGH, JONAS AGDUR & MARKO KOVACIC

Jonas Agdur started as a municipal youth worker in 1980 and in 2005 he founded KEKS, a network of local departments for youth work with today over 80 member organisations in nine European countries. During the last decade Jonas has had numerous European assignments, comprising being chair of the EU expert group on youth work quality systems and member of the Council of Europe High Level Task Force on Youth Work. Jonas is known as 'the father' of the European Charter on Local Youth Work and is currently responsible for the revision of the web-based support tool The Changemakers' kit.



Dr. Marko Kovacic is an associate professor of public policy and political sociology at the University of Rijeka, specializing in youth and education policy. With over 15 years of experience in research, teaching, and consultancy, he participates in numerous youth policy processes at the European level. Dr. Kovacic is also an accomplished project manager, evaluator, and former youth worker who is passionate about espresso, social change, and democratic practices. He joined EGL in 2016 and ever since actively participates in various national and European EGL activities.

Judit Balogh has been the coordinator of the Europe Goes Local Strategic Coordination since 2016, when the project started. She has been involved in different aspects of youth work development and implementation for 25 years, starting with leisure activities for refugee children and youth in Hungary, continuing with youth exchanges and other activities linked to the European programmes. She has also worked in the National Agency in Hungary and was lucky to take part also in the policy dialogue at the European level during the two EU Presidency semesters she supported in different roles in Hungary and Belgium. She strongly believes that youth work has a significant impact not only on youngsters but the whole society with promoting fundamental human and societal values, self- and community-development.

ID Talks EGL



JONAS AGDUR
(Sweden)

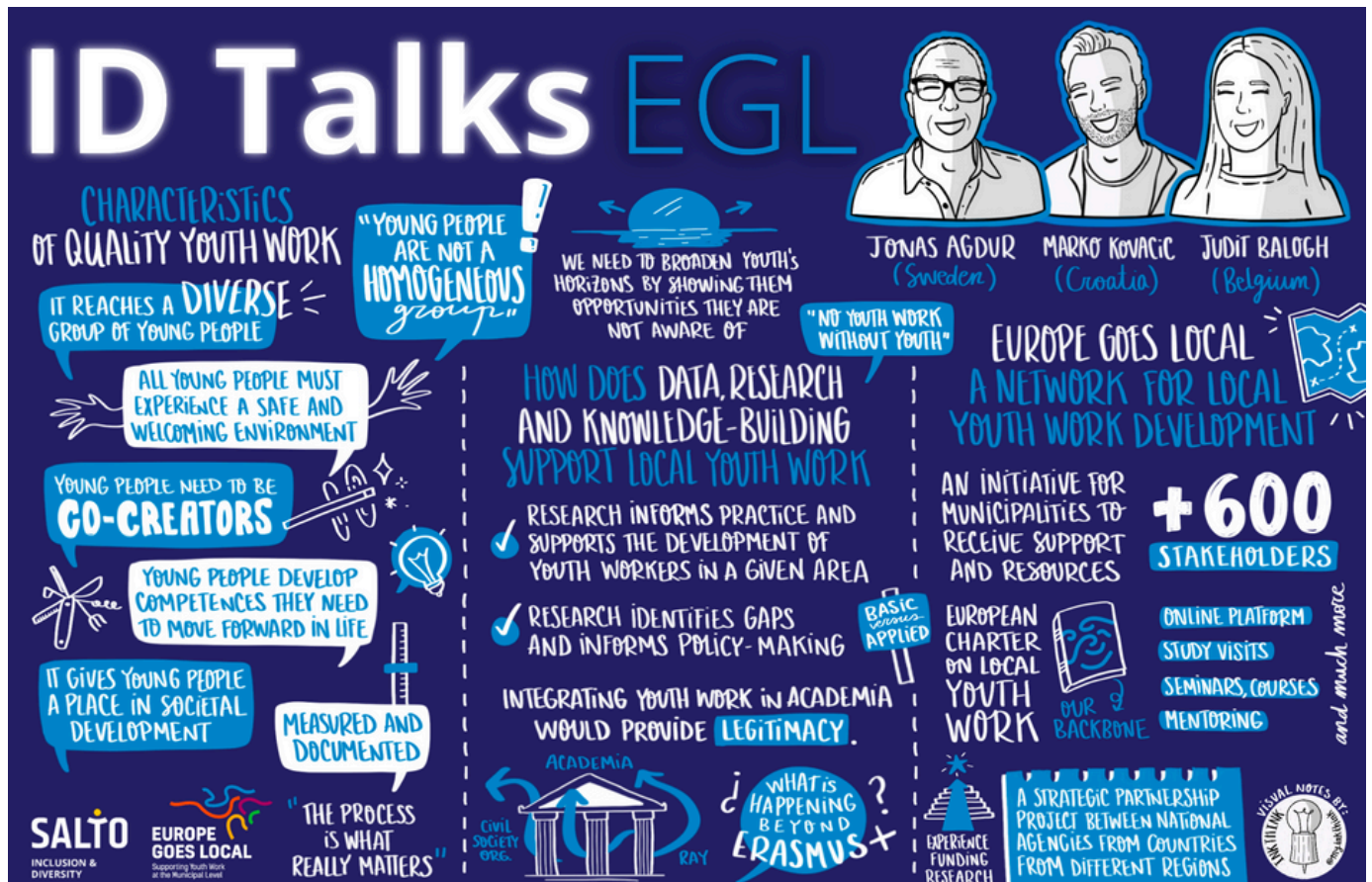
MARKO KOVACIC
(Croatia)

JUDIT BALOGH
(Belgium)



Article

Judit Balogh, Jonas Agdur & Marko Kovacic



What characterizes quality youth work?

Youth work is differently governed, financed and organised throughout Europe. However, during recent years the sector has made great progress in articulating the common overarching aims and principles that taken together frames and defines youth work [1]. Despite differences it is also clear that the challenges that youth workers meet and the competences and approaches they need to use are very much the same.

[1] Please see the [Council of Europe Recommendation on Youth Work](#), the [European Charter on Local Youth Work](#) and the report [Youth Work: the role of local and regional authorities](#).

Based on this we can summarize some conclusions on what characterizes quality youth work and what is required to provide it:

1. It reaches a diverse group of young people, including those at risk.

This requires an active outreach that addresses various needs and interests, provided through different activity formats (drop-in, groups, etcetera) in an attractive environment that offers space for both socializing and activities.

Reaching a diverse group of young people is not only a question about equal opportunities, but also a precondition for a dynamic learning environment where young people learn from each other and develop together.

2. All young people experience a safe and welcoming environment.

This requires zero tolerance towards all forms of violence and abuse and that norms are actively problematized in relation to basic values in all activities.

3. Young people are involved in initiating, planning, running and evaluating activities.

This is the essence of participation, and it requires the ability to challenge and engage young people and to truly believe in their competence and will to take responsibility.

A hand-drawn speech bubble in blue with white text. The text reads: "IT REACHES A DIVERSE GROUP OF YOUNG PEOPLE". There are three short lines radiating from the top right of the bubble.

IT REACHES A DIVERSE
GROUP OF YOUNG PEOPLE

A hand-drawn speech bubble in dark blue with white text. The text reads: "ALL YOUNG PEOPLE MUST EXPERIENCE A SAFE AND WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT". Two hands are drawn on the sides of the bubble, as if holding it.

ALL YOUNG PEOPLE MUST
EXPERIENCE A SAFE AND
WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT

A hand-drawn speech bubble in blue with white text. The text reads: "YOUNG PEOPLE NEED TO BE GO-CREATORS". To the right of the bubble is a hand-drawn pencil with a star and a small asterisk next to it.

YOUNG PEOPLE NEED TO BE
GO-CREATORS

4. Young people develop knowledge, skills, attitudes and values that help them to participate and move forward in life.

This requires talking to young people about what they want to develop, offering 'on-demand' NFE possibilities and that their learning is recognized.

5. It gives young people a place in societal development.

This requires having clear routines for young people to make their voices heard and have real influence on all issues that affect them.

Last but not least.

Steering towards "quality" requires that this is formulated in measurable qualitative and quantitative indicators and aims and that activities are documented and followed up in a way that generates the knowledge needed for continuous development.

So, is this what young people get?

Yes, but in varying degrees.

Some observations based on KEKS' questionnaires to over 12 000 young people taking part in youth work 2024, might trigger discussions ...

Young people with disabilities and those that have experienced serious problems are more often abused by other young people and feel less safe, but all groups agree that youth workers stop those that are making it unpleasant for others.

— Are we more reactive than proactive ...?

Youth workers encourage and talk more with girls than with boys and those that don't have passing grades are the ones that feel least encouraged to take responsibility.

— Which relations do we prioritize...?

These were just two glimpses! More is to come in KEKS annual report!



YOUNG PEOPLE DEVELOP
COMPETENCES THEY NEED
TO MOVE FORWARD IN LIFE



IT GIVES YOUNG PEOPLE
A PLACE IN SOCIETAL
DEVELOPMENT

CHARACTERISTICS OF QUALITY YOUTH WORK

IT REACHES A **DIVERSE** GROUP OF YOUNG PEOPLE

ALL YOUNG PEOPLE MUST EXPERIENCE A SAFE AND WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT

YOUNG PEOPLE NEED TO BE **CO-CREATORS**

YOUNG PEOPLE DEVELOP COMPETENCES THEY NEED TO MOVE FORWARD IN LIFE

IT GIVES YOUNG PEOPLE A PLACE IN SOCIETAL DEVELOPMENT

MEASURED AND DOCUMENTED



How Data, Research, and Knowledge-Building Support Local Youth Work

The Importance of Research and Knowledge in Youth Work

The study of youth work is essential for understanding and improving the ways in which young people engage with their communities. Research plays a fundamental role in shaping youth work, ensuring that programs are not only effective but also tailored to the evolving needs of young people. A solid foundation of research allows practitioners to design interventions that are evidence-based and responsive to social changes. One of the primary contributions of research is its ability to inform practice. By identifying the challenges and aspirations of young people, research helps youth workers develop strategies that are relevant and impactful.

Additionally, the ongoing process of knowledge-building contributes to the professional development of those engaged in youth work, allowing them to refine their skills and approaches. Beyond informing practice, research is crucial in guiding decision-making. In the context of local youth work, policymakers and funding bodies rely on research to determine where resources should be allocated. Data-driven decision-making ensures that investments in youth programs produce measurable results, improving the overall effectiveness of youth work initiatives. A further benefit of research lies in its capacity to identify gaps in existing youth work programs. By analyzing factors that contribute to successful interventions, researchers can pinpoint best practices that can be replicated in different communities. Understanding what works—and why—enables local youth work programs to scale their efforts, ultimately enhancing their reach and impact.

The knowledge generated through research also serves as an inspiration for future studies. As more insights are gathered, new questions emerge, leading to an ongoing cycle of investigation and improvement. This dynamic process allows youth work to evolve in response to the changing social and political landscape. However, in order to achieve, let's see what we do know and what remains unclear when talking on (local) youth work research.

HOW DOES DATA, RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE-BUILDING SUPPORT LOCAL YOUTH WORK

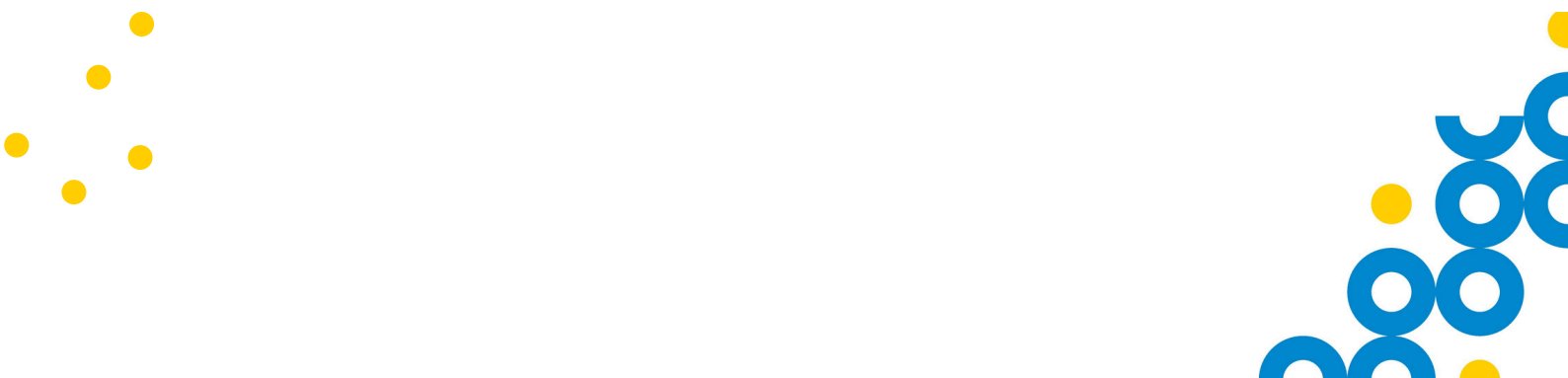
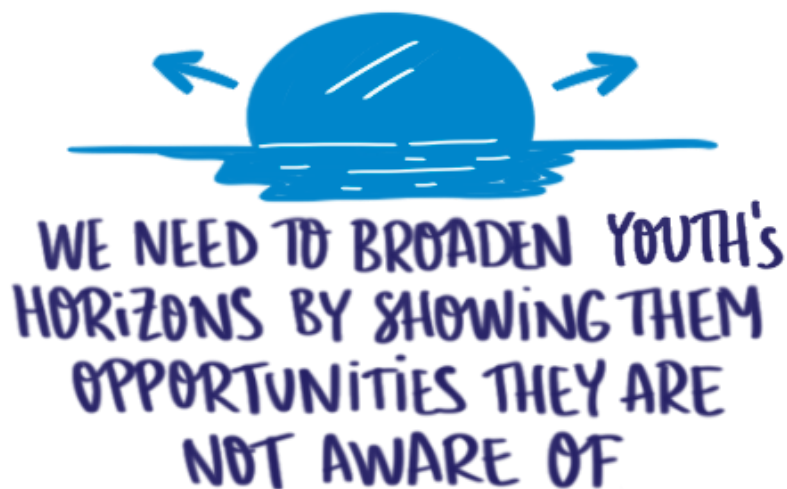
- ✓ RESEARCH INFORMS PRACTICE AND SUPPORTS THE DEVELOPMENT OF YOUTH WORKERS IN A GIVEN AREA
- ✓ RESEARCH IDENTIFIES GAPS AND INFORMS POLICY-MAKING



What Existing Research Tells Us

Significant research has already been conducted within the framework of European youth programs, particularly through the Research-based Analysis and Monitoring of European Youth Programmes (RAY Network). This network, which involves 36 National Agencies of Erasmus+ Youth in Action and the European Solidarity Corps, has explored a wide range of topics related to youth work. Studies have examined how participation in these programs fosters citizenship development, strengthens organizational learning, and enhances digital youth work. Additionally, research has shed light on the role of youth work in personal learning and development, capacity building, and civic participation. The impact of external factors, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, has also been explored in relation to youth engagement and program effectiveness.

Among these European initiatives, the European Solidarity Corps stands out as the program most closely linked to local youth work. Its emphasis on community engagement makes it a valuable case study for understanding how youth work functions at the local level. However, despite the wealth of research available on these European programs, significant knowledge gaps remain.



What We Still Need to Learn

While existing studies have provided a strong foundation, there are still many unanswered questions about local youth work, particularly beyond the scope of Erasmus+ and the European Solidarity Corps. For instance, little is known about youth work in countries with well-established support structures where it is not yet socially or politically recognized. Furthermore, in countries with limited research capacity, it remains unclear how youth work operates and what challenges it faces. Without a broader and more inclusive approach to research, the full spectrum of local youth work remains difficult to comprehend.

Establishing a Research Pillar in "Europe Goes Local"

To address these gaps, the "Europe Goes Local" initiative has proposed the establishment of a dedicated research pillar. This initiative aims to create a systematic approach to studying local youth work, ensuring that research findings are not only theoretical but also applicable in practice. A key component of this effort is the formation of a scientific committee composed of academic researchers focused on local youth work. The research conducted within this framework will serve multiple purposes: informing stakeholders, identifying key areas for policy discussions, and consolidating existing data into actionable insights. Every research endeavor under this initiative is expected to have clear practical value. Additionally, "Europe Goes Local" will leverage its events as platforms for data collection, using these gatherings to gain insights into local youth work and share new knowledge with relevant stakeholders.

Conclusion

As youth work continues to evolve, it is crucial to support it with systematic and evidence-based research. While European initiatives have provided valuable insights, there is still much to be explored, particularly at the local level. The establishment of a dedicated research pillar within "Europe Goes Local" is a significant step toward ensuring that youth work remains informed by knowledge, responsive to change, and impactful in communities across Europe.

EUROPE GOES LOCAL
A NETWORK FOR LOCAL
YOUTH WORK DEVELOPMENT



EDITORIAL INFORMATION

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Official Website: www.SALTO-YOUTH.net/inclusion/

SALTO-Jint, Grétrystraat26, 1000 Brussel, Belgium

Tel: +32 (0)2 209 07 20 Fax: +32 (0)2 209 07 49

inclusion@salto-youth.net

Legal info: JINT vzw, 0441.254.285, RPR Nederlandstalige Ondernemingsrechtbank Brussel

Coordination: Henrique Gonçalves and Marija Kljajic (inclusion@salto-youth.net)

Facilitator: Anna Yeghoyan (ayeghoyan@yahoo.com)

Digital Co-Facilitator: Maria Kousoula (marakikousoula@gmail.com)

Graphic Facilitator: Olalla González (olalla@shokkin.org)

General Editor of the Publication: Maria Kousoula (marakikousoula@gmail.com)

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On behalf of the SALTO Inclusion & Diversity!

