**Age Guidance**

* The main purpose of the EYE Opener training course is to enable young people who do not have access to youth exchange training courses to undertake training and be part of the decision-making process from the very beginning of the project – for this reason young people are at the heart of EYE Opener. These guidelines are designed to encourage youth inclusion, participation and empowerment.
* Although the Youth in Action definition of young people ranges from 13-25 (even 30!), EYE Opener focuses on the age-group who are not seen as ‘adults’ yet (have not reached the legal age of majority yet) but who are very capable of taking on responsibility, given the right level of adult youth worker/youth leader support.
* The partnership balance between adults and young people is crucial for the success of EYE Opener. Each ‘home team’ (the term we use for each individual young person/adult group) must consist of at least one young person and one adult youth worker / youth leader. Two young people can attend from a group, with one or two youth worker / youth leader adults, if appropriate. Two young people is the maximum per ‘home team’.
* It is important that the youth worker / youth leader adult(s) undertakes responsibility for the behavior of the young person(s). For this reason, it is important the young person(s) knows the adult(s). It is also advisable for the adult(s) to agree a behavioural code with the young person(s) before attending EYE Opener. Remember young people are coming from different cultural and legal contexts and the context in the country where EYE Opener is being hosted may also be different to their reality.
* As an age guideline for youth participation, we suggest the following:-
* 16-17 year-olds - the main target group
* 15 year-olds - can attend, but think carefully about their maturity as nearly all other young people will be older
* 18-19 year-olds - can attend, but perhaps they could operate as adult youth leaders (in this case it needs to be clear that one of the adults in the ‘home team’ is accepting responsibility for the young person(s).
* If you are uncertain at all about these guidelines, please contact the Host Agency who will then consult with the EYE Opener trainers’ team.