



InterCITY for YOUTH

The European Network of Local Departments for Youth Work

Background

In October 2012 on behalf of JUGEND für Europa the first InterCITY-conference was held. The aim was to bring municipalities in Europe together and to offer a platform for exchange and mutual learning on the topic of youth work. The idea was born to establish a European network of local departments for youth work to give permanence to this form of cooperation and mutual learning. During the second InterCITY-conference in December 2013 in Helsinki/Finland the network idea was concretized and further developed. In November 2014 during the third InterCITY-conference (9th to 11th November in 's-Hertogenbosch/NL) the network shall be officially founded.

The InterCITY-conferences are supported by the European program YOUTH IN ACTION (since 2014 Erasmus+ YOUTH IN ACTION) and shall be a contribution to the implementation of the EU Youth Strategy.

Aims

The overall aim of the network is to enhance the quality of youth work in the EU membership states. The network objectives are to

- Enhance peer learning between local departments of youth work; providing directors and staff opportunities to professional development, mutual support and stimulation;
- Promote the exchange and development of tools for enhancing and making visible the quality of youth work;
- Promote youth work as an arena for non-formal learning;
- Contribute to European youth policies; transmitting knowledge and insight from local government experiments and solutions to European policy agendas.

Possible topics of the network

- “It’s fun learning – could learning be fun?” How to work with non-formal learning in open youth work.
- Quality indicators – what is it and how could it support and/or threaten youth work?
- Reaching the hard to reach – how to attract marginalized groups?
- “Targeted youth work vs Open youth work” – how could they support each other?
- Youth worker competence – what competences are essential in modern youth work and how do we get relevant competence supply?
- Youth participation – exploring new forms and methods for young people’s engagement.

Possible activities of the network

- Conferences
- Seminars
- Thematical working groups
- Job shadowing

- Website with examples of good practices
- Databases

The European program Erasmus+ YOUTH IN ACTION as main instrument to support youth policy and youth work in Europe may be actively used for the activities of the network.

Initiators

- **JUGEND für Europa**
On behalf of the Service- and Transfer Agency EU Youth Strategy within JUGEND für Europa, the German National Agency of the Erasmus+ YOUTH IN ACTION program, the first InterCITY conference was held 2012 in Germany.
- **KEKS** is a Swedish network for local youth work departments with 41 members at present.
- **Kanuuna** is a Finnish network for municipal youth work departments with 27 of the largest municipalities in Finland at present.
- The Dutch city of **'s-Hertogenbosch** was actively involved in the two first InterCITY conferences and will now organize the third conference.

Contact

Claudius Siebel
JUGEND für Europa – Service- and Transfer Agency EU Youth Strategy
Godesberger Allee 142-148
53175 Bonn
siebel@jfemail.de