

Do you want to meet 25 European experts and multipliers to make a difference for young people with fewer opportunities?

If your answer to the above question is 'yes', then this 1st participation lab of "How to ignite the spark" is for you. It aims at empowering underrepresented groups to participate in democratic life and is based

on an attitude to include these target groups as subjects, not as objects. With this lab we want to learn, share and challenge what youth workers, educators and multipliers could do to be helpful in this process.

Context

Under the impact of the actual challenges facing Europe there seems to be various perspectives on how participation, a sense of citizenship and democratic values need to be further developed today. Current research shows that young people tend to participate rather in non-traditional forms and different examples can be found all over Europe where young people do get involved if their interests and needs are directly addressed.

Across Europe the understanding of what participation actually is differs – mainly at the divide between social, civic and political participation. In the framework of this project stands the assumption that all three forms are interrelated, leading to a greater democratic participation and active citizenship. This reflective process is at the core of this project called "How to ignite the spark".

This long-term project aims at:

- Contributing to a better understanding of alternative and diverse forms of participation in democratic life;
- Promoting the value of young people as part of a vivid and contentious democracy under development;

- Bridging the ability to articulate an individual interest to an ability to articulate a common interest with others;
- Reflecting on the learning of participation as a way to inspire critical citizens;
- Enabling multipliers to empower young people to take an active role in democratic society.

The project has a core interest to strengthen participation for groups and in fields which are normally underrepresented and having less access to forms of influencing their living environment, such as young refugees and migrants, people of black and ethnic minority background (BME), NEETs, young apprentices, trainees and workers, young people in vocational training centers, schools or non-formal settings such as youth initiatives.

There will be 3 separate Participation Labs, each with 25 – 30 participants. The aim is to bring together in each lab experts and multipliers to explore a current challenge and to find out about the burning questions, existing knowledge and models of practice. This might prepare the topic for one or more training courses in the future as result of the labs.

How to ignite the spark?

Understanding alternative and diverse forms of participation in democratic life @ empowering multipliers to support them

PARTICIPATION LAB 1:
How to give young people with fewer opportunities a voice?

Bonn, 16 to 18 November 2016

Programme

	DAY 1	DAY 2	DAY 3
Morning	Arrival of Participants	Experts Angle _ to be continued	And Now What? _ prototyping new ideas _ improving prototyping through feedback _ putting ideas into action
Afternoon I	Welcome _ getting started	Success Stories _ learning, getting inspired from each other	Closure Evaluation
Afternoon II	Experts Angle _ getting updated _ debating understanding & experiences _ creating a common language	Transforming Me to Transform Others _ my role within participation of under-represented youth groups _ my needs to support my role further	Departure of Participants
Evening	Free evening	Dinner out in the city	

How to apply:

Applicants should register online at www.salto-youth.net and show what relates them with the topic. The Erasmus+ Youth in Action National Agency of the applicants' country will decide about the selection, covering travel costs and possible participation fees.

Are you the one?

We look for a good mixture of field experts, researchers, practitioners, trainers, political educators and other multipliers. And we look for the ones we don't know yet – so if you work with young people with fewer opportunities, please feel free to apply! No prior international experience required.

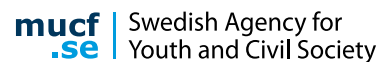
Further questions?

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Youth Partnership

Partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the field of youth



Erasmus+ is the European Union programme for education, training, youth and sport. The Erasmus+ UK National Agency is a partnership between the British Council and Ecorys UK.

