**Towards a Charter on Local Youth Work**

**During its first year, Europe Goes Local, the strategic partnership of Erasmus+ youth national agencies and their partners, aimed at defining the most prominent needs of municipal level youth work that the project will be able to support in the coming period.**

**A mapping exercise has been carried out in each participating country to give an overview of patterns, structures and approaches while the kick-off event of the project provided a discussion forum for the participants to identify common challenges in local youth work. The conclusion of both procedures was that supporting the quality development of processes is crucial in order increase the recognition, capacities and effectiveness of local youth work.**

**The variety of models, diversity of approaches, resources and aims requires a coordinated action with the involvement of all stakeholders respecting differences and taking the various needs into account.**

**Considering the overall aims of the strategic partnership** ( *A)Support the recognition, practice and quality development of youth work as part of municipal youth policy; B) Strengthen the European and international dimension of youth work at the municipal level; C) Develop strategies and measures for National Agencies of the Erasmus+ youth programme to support youth work; D) Contribute to the development of youth work as part of European cooperation in the youth field.*), **in line with the recommendations of the 2nd Youth Work Convention and the newly adopted CoE recommendation on youth work, the project sets the target of creating a European Charter on Local Youth Work through a series of actions and activities at the European, national and local levels.**

**The overarching objectives are to**:

* support quality development processes in youth work;
* stimulate the exchange of knowledge, sharing experience and ideas regarding what constitutes quality (quality indicators) in youth work policy and practise and how this can be realised.

**The basic pillars** the actions will be built on are:

* the active engagement of all relevant stakeholders, especially youth workers and young people, at all stages of the process;
* the integration of a European dimension in every element of the project.

**The approach** of the project is to do this through working within **four main themes**:

1. The policy making process for local youth work, including quality processes regarding for example
   1. the engagement of all relevant stakeholders in the process;
   2. needs assessment;
   3. the clarification of wished outcomes and setting of aims and objectives;
   4. the clarification of wished roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders.
2. The planning process, including quality processes regarding for example
   1. the engagement of all relevant stakeholders in the process;
   2. defining and establishing necessary preconditions;
   3. setting of budget and allocation of resources;
   4. establishing efficient work processes;
   5. establishing coherent strategies and plans.
3. The practice, including quality processes regarding for example
   1. youth influence in society and decision making;
   2. youth participation in the creation, carrying out and evaluation of youth work;
   3. securing accessibility and an inclusive approach in youth work;
   4. recognition of the non-formal learning achieved in youth work.
4. The follow up, further development and coordination, including quality processes regarding for example
   1. the engagement of all relevant stakeholders in the process;
   2. establishing methods and tools for continuous follow up of outcomes, preconditions and work processes;
   3. gathering and implementation of knowledge gathered from research;
   4. analysing and using gathered knowledge for improvement and as input for the policy making process.

The exploration and gathering of knowledge on processes, practices and tools related to these themes will in itself contribute to the development of youth work. At the same time this will give input to the possible creation of a European charter on local youth work, functioning as guidance and a point of reference for all stakeholders engaged in creating high quality youth work.

**Main milestones of the work**

2017

* 31 July The process is launched
* 1 September- National working groups are invited to get involved in the process, giving input for possible themes and start sharing knowledge and practice. This component is stable till the end of the project.

2018

* May/June 2nd conference of the project: finalizing the themes, topics of the Charter; composing possible common messages for the new generation of the EU youth programme and the EU youth strategy

2019

* May/June 3rd conference of the project: launching the charter