

A YOUTH WORK LAB THAT OFFERS A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO BETTER UNDERSTAND THE REALITIES OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN A CHANGING EUROPE AND TO BE MORE EQUIPPED TO REACT UPON THEM

WHY?

Change has been inevitable in the history of Europe. Recent changes in the European political climate and attitudes have impact on how diversity is perceived and experienced in local communities across the region. Unity of the EU and Europe as a whole has been seriously questioned and the European political climate is influenced by the rise of nationalism, populism, and illiberal policies. More restrictive migration regimes are put in place. Legislative limitations are being issued on the freedom of expression and freedom to protest, at the same time as so called "fake news" are ever more common. Brexit continues to challenge the ideals of European unity, while climate change brings about a brand-new set of challenges for Europe.

Where is this leading to? Could some changes be for the better? Does it all mean that one of the central values of Europe, diversity, has lost its meaning? How is contemporary Europe dealing with diversity, and what is the role and potential of youth work to react?

WHAT?

The youth work lab aims to provide time and space to reflect upon the implications of the current developments on young people and explore how Europe is dealing with diversity amid social, political, and environmental change. It will give an opportunity to reflect also on youth workers' professional responsibilities in relation to those processes and encourage new practices in youth work.

FOR WHO?

For all youth work professionals.

HOW?

The youth work lab takes a critical approach to current socio-political situation and challenges participants to evaluate their own work with young people in this context.

Methods of non-formal learning are used, including study visits and practice projects, which are implemented by each participant in their local context.

The youth work lab consists of two residential training courses, a practice project, and some practical as well as an online learning process before the residential trainings.

MASSIMILIANO MORRA / ITALY



"During the course I had many "aha" moments but for sure the most important ones were related to the discovery of how much the reality is complex and from how many perspectives you can observe the world. I feel much more accurate now in planning activities, taking into consideration the diversity. I feel more self-confident (even if self confidence is never enough) and more aware of the topic of diversity in its totality."

HISTORY

The first edition of the training course "EUtopia? - Diversity in a Changing Europe" took place in 2012 and since then it has evolved into high quality learning journey that helps youth workers to actively use opportunities and respond to challenges posed by ongoing changes in Europe.

LIGA RUDZITE: "In each EUtopia, irrespective of the focus we choose to use, participants gain a clearer view of what lies behind the concept of diversity. For the participants, it often turns out to be uncomfortable and sometimes impossible to fully engage in diversity-related work, but it is always useful to see diversity as a complex process, rather than a superficial feel-good concept."

RESULTS SO FAR

DRAGAN ATANASOV: "EUtopia allows youth workers dive deeper into contemporary social, political and cultural developments in Europe, and explore how abstract concepts like diversity are affected by them. Each edition of the training provides different perspectives and leaves us with more questions to be considered."

"I would definitely recommend this course to youth workers, youth leaders, trainers & facilitators who work with young people in EU and outside EU. The course provides theory and more importantly - practice of methods and tools that support youth work on many levels."

Course provides real life examples where you can work with underlying value systems of different groups and their behavioural expressions on surface level. It provides tools and methods how to understand better your target group, their values and needs and how to provide more opportunities to your target group."

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TEAM



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