



Private, non profit/non governmental organisation

Activity level:

Local, regional, national, European, international

PIC code:

947685539

OID number:

E10190446

Adress	
Legal address	Sint-Jansstraat 32
Postal code	1000
City	Brussels
Country	Belgium

Website and social media	
Website	<a href="http://www.internationaaljeugdwerk.be">www.internationaaljeugdwerk.be</a>
Instagram	<a href="https://www.instagram.com/joetzinternational">https://www.instagram.com/joetzinternational</a>
Facebook	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100088826726829">https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100088826726829</a>

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## Our organisation: JOETZ

JOETZ is a **recognized national youth association by the Flemish government**, Department of Culture, sport and leisure. JOETZ is also partner of Solidaris, one of the major public, nonprofit health insurance funds in Belgium (also called a 'mutualiteit' or 'ziekenfonds').

JOETZ's mission is to be a **health promoter for children and young people (3-30 years old) in Flanders and Brussels**. We strengthen and support a sensitized and solidarity-based society able to develop the health and well-being of its children and young people in a high-quality, sustainable and participative manner.

JOETZ wants to achieve this mission through various health projects (healthie<sup>1</sup>-workshops, online and offline health content, health campaigns), activities (children's and youth camps, playground activities, children's events) & training (animator/youth leader trainings, training courses, peer to peer education) and does this for, by and with children and young people. This happens **locally, supra-locally and internationally**.

As a health promoter, JOETZ wants to have an impact on children and young people, always starting from its youth work DNA: in a fun and playful way.

## Activities and expertise of JOETZ in general

JOETZ's **specific core tasks** are: health projects, activities & camps, trainings, international youth work and giving a voice to young people through our online platform ZAPmag.

- **Through health projects**, JOETZ gives substance to the concept of health, makes the concept explicit for its target groups and aims to have a concrete impact in the field of positive attitudes and behaviors regarding health in children and young people.

JOETZ annually organizes new health projects with, for and by children and young people. These projects are being rolled out to the education field, youth work and non-organised leisure. For example, teachers can [download free lesson packs](#)<sup>2</sup> to work in the classroom on the themes of health (eg mental well-being, healthy nutrition, menstrual shame and poverty, ...). There is an annual campaign with a focus on a specific theme (in 2022 'Friendship', in 2023 'Sleep'). Examples of roll-outs are: podcast series about friendship, YouTube series about sleep, short videos with a cabaret duo about mental well-being in young people. JOETZ does not shy away from taboos in her choice of topics and their elaboration. JOETZ stays as close as possible to the world of young people. JOETZ trains young people to become 'Healthies'. These Healthie volunteers go to school to give workshops about health topics (peer to peer).

Examples of topics of our annual campaigns and roll-outs (in Dutch):

- Breaking taboos: <https://healthies.joetz.be/taboo>
- Friendship (kids): <https://healthies.joetz.be/onderons>
- Friendship (youngsters): <https://healthies.joetz.be/tourneeamicale>
- Sleep: <https://healthies.joetz.be/onderdons>
- Body image (kids, 5-7 y): <https://healthies.joetz.be/watstafkan>
- Body image (kids, 10-12 y): <https://healthies.joetz.be/overmijnlijf>

<sup>1</sup> Young people we train to go to schools and other venues to implement our various non-formal peer to peer campaigns and projects around health

<sup>2</sup> Google translate: [Educational Packages | Healthies \(healthies-joetz-be.translate.google.com\)](https://healthies.joetz.be.translate.google.com)

- **Through activities & camps**, JOETZ creates space for children and young people to play and therefore also a space to live: an active and healthy lifestyle, learning to function in a diverse group, gaining new experiences, pushing boundaries, ... These activities take place in Belgium but also abroad (Italy, Sweden, ...). The activities and camps can sometimes also focus on health themes (e.g. bed-wetting camps, cycling camps, swimming camps, ...).
- **Through trainings**, JOETZ trains competent and enthusiastic volunteers (both official animator/youth leader trainings recognized by the Flemish Youth Government and specialized trainings). In addition to the trainings officially recognized by the Flemish government to obtain the certificate of volunteering in youth work, JOETZ also organizes other trainings to support our volunteers in their development as a volunteer youth worker. These volunteers organize the activities and camps for children and young people (with the support of educational *paid* youth workers of JOETZ). These trainings take place several times a year and are given by volunteers as well (who again are trained by the educational paid youth workers of JOETZ).
- **Through international youth work**, JOETZ is committed to strengthening its own organization and giving young people and youth workers (paid and unpaid) the opportunity to gain a broader view of health, well-being and youth work in the world. The European grant programs Erasmus+ Youth and European Solidarity Corps create opportunities for this.
- **JOETZ gives young people a voice**. For this, JOETZ creates a place within a digital world, in which content is tailored to the recipient and where stories are told by young people: ZAPMag.

#### Expertise of International youth work JOETZ

- Own projects

Every year, JOETZ organizes Erasmus+ projects itself (currently mainly **focus on KA 1**, ambition in KA 2 for the future). We develop our projects in close cooperation with a network of trainers, facilitators, JOETZ volunteers, other paid/unpaid youth workers ... both nationally and internationally, which has been broadly developed over the years. We are also leading, sending and hosting organization for ESC projects.

We consider it important that the subjects of our international projects are supported by our entire organization and, by extension, by Flemish youth work. We strive for broad support so that the knowledge and experience of participating in international projects can be brought back to our youth work.

To make this possible, we strive for close cooperation with the other JOETZ' teams. JOETZ is also represented in working groups and councils in Flemish youth work. We also gain a lot of knowledge and experience from these meetings.

- Partner in projects

JOETZ is always looking forward to joining KA 1 Erasmus+ Youth projects as a partner. We are known for our professional cooperation. In the choice of projects, **we strive to stay as close as possible to our core business: subjects such as health, welfare and youth work (methodologies).**

## Skills and experience of International youth work staff JOETZ

JOETZ's staff is organized in different *teams*. Each team has a specific focus related to the different core tasks of JOETZ (see above):

Members of the team International youth work are Liselotte Bekaert, Rudi Vereecken and Thomas Gits. They take care of everything JOETZ does concerning Erasmus+ Youth and ESC.

**Liselotte Bekaert** ([LinkedIn](#)): *coordinator*

- Main focus: point of contact for developing a network within the Erasmus+ actions and the ESC programme. She monitors collaborations with partners and coordinates the organization of JOETZ' projects in collaboration with partners (trainers, facilitators, JOETZ volunteers, other paid/unpaid youth workers).  
Being a member of the Boards of the Flemish National Agency (JINT) ensures that she is aware of the latest developments in the international youth projects landscape. Together with the other members, she can put pressure on international youth work policy.
- Background: bachelor's degree in pedagogical sciences, a master's degree in social work and a teacher's degree. She taught behavioral and cultural sciences in secondary school (age 13-18 y) for many years and organized an annual European youth exchange project with a group of Belgian and Danish students. In addition, she has years of experience as a volunteer in youth (welfare) work: at an organization (De Pagadder, OCMW gent) that organizes activities and camps for children and young people with fewer opportunities as well as at a larger organization (Kazou) that organizes camps in Belgium as well as abroad. In addition, she supported adults with a migration background for several years to guide them to do volunteer work in Flanders (recent name: Amal Gent). She did EVS herself in Spain (JOETZ was her sending organization) and participated in TC's as a volunteer for JOETZ.

She uses this varied experience in helping to draw up Erasmus+ Youth programs (advice on developing sessions), supporting and coaching young people and youth workers in writing projects/ participating in projects and taking out of it the most as possible. The broad youth work experience and interest in social topics motivates her to always create the greatest possible support for JOETZ's projects, both within the own organization and outside the organization at various levels.

**Rudi Vereecken**: *project assistant*

- Main focus: follow-up of the projects concerning the administrative and financial part (application files, the budget of the projects, the final reports, the reimbursement, ...)
- Background: bachelor's degree in psychology. He previously organized seminars and conferences at the Brussels University for over 20 years.

**Thomas Gits:** *educational staff member*

- Main focus: Contact person for youngsters and youth workers to promote, support, coach and organize international youth work activities with the E+ and ESC program within the internal and external network of JOETZ. He follows-up on selection procedures, international network, project opportunities and the learning journey of those who embark on international activities.
- Background: Thomas discovered European Youth work in 2013 and has since then been an active participant, volunteer, promotor, ambassador, organizer and facilitator of various collaborations within the European Youth Networks, with a main focus on experiential and outdoor learning. He graduated from his formal education Social Work, Social Policies in 2014 and has worked for a number of different youth organizations in Belgium and beyond. From 2016 to 2018 he chaired the seat of President in the International Young Naturefriends movement, where he learned the responsibilities and capabilities of many international gatherings, each one connected always with Non-Formal Education at its core. In 2018 Thomas connected with the National Agency in Flanders and became responsible for many trainings for incoming and outgoing ESC volunteers. His role within the NA was mostly focused on organizing training & events, promoting the youth programs to youngsters and youth workers and building a community of internationalists and E+/ESC enthusiasts. After 5 years Thomas decided to pursue his dream to become a freelancer and has worked with a couple of non-profit, governmental and private actors in the process. By doing this he learned (the hard way) that there is nothing that captivates him more than being part of the facilitation and organization of international youth work, which finally, brought him with tons of motivation in JOETZ.

### Ambition

- It is our ambition to join as a partner in **Mobility of youth workers projects** (training courses, study visits, seminars, ...) and **youth exchanges**, for the **upcoming deadlines**.
- We received a **Erasmus+ Accreditation** in 2024. This creates a new way of working. We want to focus on that in 2024-2027. Our strategic goals are:
  - o We want to create a space for young people where they can exchange experiences and ideas about health and wellbeing topics with others. (youth exchanges)
  - o We offer youth workers the opportunity to develop competencies & exchange knowledge/experiences:
    - on how to design play & meeting spaces for children & young people. (mob's)
    - in training and guiding volunteers in order to appropriately frame the space created.
    - on how to introduce health themes into the living environment of children & young people.

The projects will always fall within these goals and will always have a valuable impact on the operation JOETZ and the other participating partner organizations.

- We are excited to join a **KA 2 project as a partner in the near future**, to which we can learn a valuable contribution with our expertise in themes such as health, welfare and youth work (methodologies).
- We will **continue to send out enthusiastic young people for ESC**. We look forward to continuing to host a **ESC volunteering team** ourselves once a year. In 2025 we will host 2 individual youngsters ourselves and 1 Volunteering team.

Accreditations	
ESC Quality Label number:	2021-1-BE05-ESC50-003203
KA 150 Erasmus+ Youth Accreditation:	2023-1-BE05-KA150-YOU-000188642

Funding for the last 2 years			
Programme or initiative	Identification/contract number	Contracting promoter	Title of the project
European Solidarity Corps			
Long term ESC in Armenia	ESC QL: 2023-1-BE05-ESC51-VTJ-000131437	JOETZ	Together for children
Long term ESC in Armenia			Help for change
Volunteering team in Belgium			Surf on the voluntary wave (volunteering in a windsurf camp with people with disabilities)
Long term ESC in Albania	ESC QL: 2022-1-BE05-ESC51-VTJ-000080437	JOETZ	Building-up inclusive communities
Long term ESC in Armenia			Help for change
Long term ESC in Armenia			Volunteers for the Protection of Nature
Long term ESC in Romenia			Volunteering in Pe Lunca
Erasmus+ Youth			
Erasmus+ Youth exchange	Erasmus+ Accreditation: 2024-1-BE05-KA151-YOU-000231928	JOETZ	Mindful swipes and outdoor vibes (topic: smartphone detox)
Erasmus+ Training course		JOETZ	Become a creative youth worker by using art, music and games
Erasmus+ Training course		JOETZ	Navigating Friendship (topic: digital paradox)
Erasmus+ Training course	2023-3-BE05-KA153-YOU-000175333	JOETZ	The power of mental well-being in youth work
Erasmus+ Study visit	2023-1-BE05-KA153-YOU-000148333	JOETZ	Democracy, diversity and well-being
Erasmus+ Youth exchange	2023-2-BE05-KA152-YOU-000168658	JOETZ	Yoga for peace
Erasmus+ Youth exchange	2022-1-BE05-KA152-YOU-000054825	JOETZ	Queerclusion: Press play
Erasmus+ Training course	2022-1-BE05-KA153-YOU-000063622	JOETZ	Back to the roots
Erasmus+ Training course	2022-1-BE05-KA153-YOU-000063596	JOETZ	Share the rainbow
Erasmus+ Training course	2022-2-BE05-KA153-YOU-000090761	JOETZ	Get in to get out
Erasmus+ Training course	2022-2-BE05-KA153-YOU-000090732	JOETZ	How far will you go
Erasmus+ Youth exchange	2022-3-BE05-KA152-YOU-000093206	JOETZ	Climate versus health

Erasmus+ Training course	2022-3-BE05-KA153-YOU-000099666	JOETZ	Can we talk about it
Erasmus+ Training course	2022-3-BE05-KA153-YOU-000094057	JOETZ	Explore the limits
Erasmus+ Training course	2022-3-BE05-KA153-YOU-000093119	JOETZ	Journey to the core
Erasmus+ Training course	2022-3-BE05-KA153-YOU-000094057	JOETZ	Find your balance