



DJS/EYCB/ENTER/ZL/ZM/2010/022

Budapest, 26 April 2010

ENTER!
Access to Social Rights for young people from disadvantaged neighborhoods

Consultative meeting on
Youth Information and
Counselling

14 – 18 June 2010
European Youth Centre, Budapest

Meeting description

The ENTER! Project

Within its work priority “Social Cohesion and Inclusion of Young People”, the Directorate of Youth and Sport of the Council of Europe initiated a two-year-project to share experiences and develop innovative and effective youth work and youth policy responses to exclusion, discrimination and violence affecting young people in multicultural disadvantaged neighbourhoods. The project is based on and uses the potential of interdisciplinary approaches between human right, social cohesion, and youth policies, the role of non formal education and importance of participation of youth in the processes affecting them.

The project, run with the support of the Flemish Agency of Foreign Affairs, draws on the experience of the Council of Europe youth sector in developing non-formal learning and training of youth workers in order to explore ways of responding to challenges faced by young people and youth work institutions.

The project is being developed with the following objectives in mind:

- To address situations of conflict and exclusion of young people living in multicultural environments through non-formal education and youth work projects;
- To develop conceptual and practical means of translating intercultural dialogue into the realities of youth work;
- To explore and identify means for innovative youth work projects with young people at risk of exclusion and violence;
- To initiate, support and evaluate thirty-five innovative pilot projects with a high multiplier effect across Europe;
- To address situations of exclusion, conflict and violence affecting young people through partnerships between youth work, youth policy and local authorities;
- To consolidate results of the “all different – all equal” European youth campaign in relation to diversity, participation and human rights.

One core element of the ENTER! project is a long-term training course for youth workers/leaders working in disadvantaged neighbourhoods with young people who face difficulties in exercising their social human rights. The course aims at developing their skills and competences in setting up projects for inclusion and in sharing them with colleagues across Europe. The projects of the participants should serve as a basis for policy recommendations on the access of young people to social rights.

In addition to the training course and its support measures, the project includes seminars and meetings in 2010 and 2011 aimed at complementing the work done with youth workers by deepening specific issues and themes and especially connecting the course and the project with the other priorities of the youth policy agenda of the Council of Europe.

The framework of the meeting

The Council of Europe is the continent's oldest treaty organisation, founded in 1949 which groups 47 countries.

The training programme of the Council of Europe's Directorate of Youth and Sport is aimed at promoting the building and strengthening of open and democratic European societies. This programme is based on a philosophy of participation, democracy and intercultural exchange for young people who are in a position to act as "multipliers".

The knowledge and experience gained at international seminars and training courses can be used by young people all over Europe.

The 8th Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Youth in 2008 adopted the Agenda 2020 “The future of the Council of Europe youth policy”, setting objectives and priorities of work for the youth field for the years to come. It clearly states that governments should work towards facilitating the access of all young people to information and counselling services, promoting young people’s active participation in democratic processes and structures, promoting equal opportunities for the participation of all young people in all aspects of their everyday lives, supporting the integration of excluded young people all of these seen as integral part of human rights based approach and democratic values Council of Europe stands for in it work.

In 1990, the Recommendation Rec(90)7E of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe “concerning information and counseling for young people in Europe” called on focusing the attention on several areas of information and counselling, such as the promotion of co-ordination policies of information and counselling designed for and accessible to all young people, fostering and supporting the creation and/or development of appropriate information and counselling services, respecting young people’s right to privacy, reliability of the information, accessibility of services to all without discrimination, supporting the introduction of new technologies in information and counselling services, promoting research at European level, supporting the development of a European network of information and counselling services for young people.

Nowadays, 20 years later, the need for improvement and continuous work on this topic stays important. Recognising the importance of it, the Directorate of Youth and Sport of the Council of Europe has established close partnerships with number of organisations with expertise in the field, such as the European Youth Information and Counselling Agency (ERYICA), with whom a Partnership Agreement has been established. In 2009, the DYS and ERYICA proposed draft updates of the Recommendation of 1990.

ENTER! – the two-year-project Directorate of Youth and Sport of the Council of Europe was initiated to address access to social rights of young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods. This also concerns the access to information and counselling as a means to empower young people and youth workers to improve the work towards ensuring innovative and effective youth work/youth policy responses to exclusion, discrimination and violence affecting young people in multicultural disadvantaged neighbourhoods. The consultative meeting plays a role in identifying challenges and new trends, ways of overcoming difficulties in the area of information and counselling in this regards.

Young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods are often socially excluded and prevented from fully benefiting from information available to empower them and enable their full and active involvement in their communities and society at large. Thus living in suburbs at the periphery of big metropolises, they are equally concerned with globalisation and the impact which media and the transmission of information have on our new lifestyles.

This meeting being organized in a larger framework of ENTER! Project will try to identify responses to how these challenges can be tackled in youth work in order to ensure access to information and counselling services and means.

Aim

To explore the ways in which information and counselling should be reflected in youth policy and how they should be organised to best contribute to improving the access of young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods to social rights.

Objectives

- To explore the current challenges in accessibility of information and counselling services to young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods;
- To discuss the role, ownership and motivation of young people in regards to using and creating information;
- To discuss efficient ways of information management and the role of youth projects in order to increase the quality and outreach to all groups concerned;
- To explore ways of ensuring quality of youth information and counselling services;
- To explore challenges and discuss efficient mechanisms of ICT use in the field of youth information and counselling
- To explore links between human rights, social rights, participation and information;
- To develop recommendations for improving youth information and counselling services both at European and national levels, and therefore to contribute to updating the Recommendation of the Committee of Ministers on information and counselling
- To contribute to the definition of thematic focuses of the youth policy approaches and responses in the frame of the ENTER! project

Format and Methodology

The seminar will bring together 25 participants (policy makers, youth organisations, researchers and young people living in multicultural disadvantaged neighbourhoods). The activity will be based on the principles of non formal education. The meeting is designed as a mutual learning situation, where participants can share experience and ideas related to the topic of the seminar. The programme of the meeting will provide space for individual as well as group reflection and debate, encourage exchange of best practices, group-work, and will help to create the theoretical and practical framework in which participants will reflect upon existing examples of youth work practice in relation to information and counselling. In addition, participants will explore how they can develop their practices further, make recommendations to the Directorate of Youth and Sport and other relevant stakeholders and create synergies among each others' work.

Working Language

The working language will be English.

Participants' Profile

The course is aimed at youth workers and social workers, active members of youth organizations, as well as at young people not being part of youth organizations, youth researchers and policy makers who have experience in information and counseling, access to information for young people or are interested in exploring further how good practices and principles can be put in practice in youth projects targeted at

young people coming from disadvantaged neighbourhoods. Some participants might also be involved in the long term training course on the access to social rights for young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods.

All applicants must:

- be aged between 18 and 30 years (does not apply for policy-makers and researchers)
- be actively involved in multicultural youth work, preferably working with disadvantaged youth
- be ready to share their experience and ideas on information, counseling, access to these services
- be able to work in English
- be committed to attend the full duration of the seminar

Arrival and departure

The seminar will last from 15th to 17th June 2010. Participants should arrive on 14th June and leave on 18th June.

Financial and practical conditions of participation

Travel expenses

Travel expenses and visa fees (on presentation of the relevant receipts) are reimbursed according to the rules of the Directorate of Youth and Sport. Only participants who have attended the entire seminar can be reimbursed. Payments will be made either by bank transfer after the course, or at the end of the seminar in cash in Euros.

Accommodation

Board and lodging are provided and paid for by the Directorate of Youth and Sport at the European Youth Centre Budapest.

Programme

The programme of the meeting will be developed by a team of trainers and professionals working with young people. It will be communicated to participants at a later stage.

Application procedure

All candidates must apply by filling in the online application form available at <http://youthapplications.coe.int/> .

The preparatory team will select participants on the basis of the profile outlined above, ensuring a balanced group (sex, geographical regions, different types of experiences, cultural backgrounds and organisations). Some place will be reserved

for the participants of the LTTC ENTER.

A waiting list may be established. Candidates will be informed as to whether their application has been accepted, rejected or put on the waiting list, by 25th of May 2010.

Any questions regarding the meeting can be addressed to Nicoleta Dumitru:
nicoleta.dumitru@coe.int

All applications should be submitted latest on **Thursday, 20th May 2010.**