



# Trends in youth work on municipal level – Europe goes local

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# Europe goes local - mapping exercise



- Aims and objectives of the project
  - 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, and
  - d) Contribute to the development of youth work as part of European cooperation in the field of youth
- Research design mapping:
  - desk research - analysis of relevant policy papers
  - a questionnaire to be filled on national level to get a general overview of national frameworks and structures of youth work on municipal level including also description of practices and challenges.
  - questionnaire to be filled by the respective partners at the European level.

# Organisation of youth work on municipal level 1



- 3 main drivers:
  - Youth work organisation on municipal level is closely connected to organisation of youth policy
    - youth work is obviously seen as one main instrument of youth policy implementation!
  - Youth work tradition
  - (In)dependency of municipal policy and administration of regions / state.

# Organisation of youth work on municipal level 2



- Main actors of youth work on municipal level are
  - Local administration (youth officers, youth affairs coordinators or specialists, youth board, departments)
  - Employees of the municipalities (mostly running youth centres)
  - NGOs responsible for social work or youth work (commissioned)
  - Youth organisations (with/out support)
  - Schools / education system
  - Sport / culture organisation

# Models of practice 1



- **Lithuania:** implementation of national youth policy on municipal level with youth work as means of implementation
- Majority of the countries (e.g. **Latvia, Finland**): national states sets the framework, municipalities create their own programmes of implementation
- Minority of countries (**e.g. Slovenia, Belgium**): complete independency of municipalities in youth policy
- **Austria:** strong impact of the provinces

# Intervening factors



- Size of the municipality
- Demographic change / mobility
- Change in societal /education / employment trends
- Financial resources

# For whom?



- Target groups:
  - All young people,
  - but often with clear focus on marginalised young people
  - New challenge: refugees
- Reached groups:
  - those active in social /cultural life
  - Marginalised young people (youth centres /clubs with social work focus)

# Aims and Challenges



- **Aims**
- General aims of youth work at national level (e.g. social development, participation, inclusion) +
  - 1. Prevention of exclusion
  - 2. Prevention of emigration (internal/external)
  - 3. Participation on local level, involvement in community
  - 4. Employment
  - 4. Leisure time activities / access to non-profit offers
- **Challenges:**
  - (financial) resources and involvement of (various) youth
  - support



# Models of good practice



- **Denmark / Gentofte:** Involvement of young people in youth policy – „mobile youth office“
- **Germany:** international youth work on local level
- **Austria:** regional umbrella and support organisations for open youth work
- **Belgium:** Association of Flemish Municipal Youth Services



# Main findings (preliminary)

- Diversity in organisation of municipal youth work in Europe reflects diversity of youth work approaches multiplied with administrative structures.
- Models of practice – tailor-made approaches based on tradition, legal basis and evidence
- Organisation of accountability (including evaluation and support)
- Active involvement of young people and evidence as success factors



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# QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION