

European cooperation between  
municipalities on youth work/youth policy

# InterCity Youth

The European Network  
of Local Departments for Youth Work

# Agenda

We will talk about:

- What are the challenges?
- Youth Work?
- Our idea and our aims.
- Our activities.
- How we are organised.
- What's in it for you.

# What are the challenges?

What are the challenges of local youth work?

Why ICY?

- Weak identity – “youth work is diverse”.
  - No “common ground”.
  - No “common business idea”.
- No common platform for discussion.
- No common voice in relation to national and European level.

# Youth Work?

What do we mean when we say "youth work"?

“Actions directed towards young people regarding activities where they take part voluntarily, designed for supporting their personal and social development through non-formal and informal learning”

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# Our idea

We enhance the quality of youth work through peer learning.

We see local departments as the most important actors in developing the quality of youth work.

Youth work takes place at a local level and without the engagement and participation of local departments no sustainable development will occur.

# Our aims

Our overall aim is to enhance the quality of youth work in the EU membership states.

Our objectives are to:

- Enhance peer learning between local departments of youth work; providing directors and staff opportunities to professional development, mutual support and stimulation.

# Our aims

- Promote the exchange and development of tools for enhancing and making visible the importance and quality of youth work.
- Promote youth work as an arena for non formal learning.
- Promote the exchange and development of new approaches, methods and practices in youth work.

# Our aims

- Contribute to European youth policies; transmitting knowledge and insight from local government experiments and solutions to European policy agendas.

So how do we reach this?



# Our activities

ICY is a network!

It builds on the needs, wishes and ideas of its members.

So far we have engaged in:

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# Our activities

## Our annual conferences:



- 2015 in Gothenburg, “InterAction for Action”.
- 2016 in Cinisello Balsamo, “Link to Labour”.
- 2017 in Leuven, “Urban Youth Work”.  
(15 – 17 November)

# Our activities

## Advocacy:

- High level debate, European Youth Week.
- Council of Europe, draft recommendations on youth work.
- "Europe goes local", NA-project in support for municipal youth work.

# Our activities

## Common projects:

- Common indicators on youth work, Erasmus+ Strategic partnership.
- Improving Youth Work – your guide to quality development.  
To be published by the European Commission.
- Job shadowing and study visits, Erasmus+ KA1-project.
- Peer review on youth work.

# Our activities

Seminars for persons responsible for youth work and youth workers on current topics:

- Working with young refugees, Munich.
- Documentation of youth work – the Logbook.
- Training of trainers in quality development.

# Our activities

## Board meetings:

- Three board meetings per year
  - Discussing common challenges.
  - Exchanging experiences and solutions.
  - Deciding on common activities.

# Our organisation

Our organisation is twofold:

- An informal network of local departments –  
**InterCity Youth, ICY**

ICY is run by a board where each member organisation has one seat.

We base our work on the document  
*Common Grounds and Intentions for InterCity Youth.*

# Our organisation

In order to be a legal body, we are also, and in parallel:

- The non-profit NGO –  
InterCity Youth support organisation



# Our organisation

In the NGO all board members of the network are individual members.

In the statutes it is stated that it can only act on the basis of decisions taken by the board of the network ICY and the document *Common grounds and intentions for InterCity Youth*.

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# Our organisation

Membership in the network is open to:

- Local departments responsible for youth work in Council of Europe member states.
- Networks of such departments.

Annual membership fee of 500 euros

# Our members

Our members are local departments from:

- Munich, Germany.
- Thessaloniki, Greece.
- Tripolis, Greece.
- Cinisella Balsamo, Italy.
- Tbilisi, Georgia.
- Chokhatauri, Georgia.

# Our members

Our members are local departments from:

- Rödovre, Denmark.
- Svedenborg, Denmark.
- Stara Zagora, Bulgaria.
- 's-Hertogenbosch, the Netherlands.

# Our members

And networks of local departments from:

- Belgium, *VVJ*, with 302 members.
- Finland, *Kanuuna*, with 27 members.
- Sweden, *KC*, with 14 members.
- Sweden, *KEKS*, with 44 members.

# What's in it for you?

Through joining ICY you will:

- Be part of a dynamic network that has the ear of major European institutions and stakeholders.
- Have access to and be able to influence ICY's high quality activities.
- Get linked to some of Europe's leading experts on youth work and quality development.

# What's in it for you?

Through joining ICY you will:

- Get to know colleagues in similar positions and broaden your professional network.
- Enhance your possibilities to be part of and apply for European projects funded by Erasmus+ or other European programs.
- Get support for promoting the importance of youth work at a local and national level.

# What's in it for you?

And above all

- Get high quality knowledge and inspiration to all levels of your organization.

“We provide directors and staff opportunities for professional development, mutual support and stimulation!”



# Information and Contacts

You will find more about us and information about our upcoming activities on:

- [www.intercityyouth.eu](http://www.intercityyouth.eu)

Contacts:

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**Thank you for listening!**