

# Contributors notes...

**Sylvain Abrial** has long experience as a professional youth worker in France and is a trainer and consultant, working in the youth field at European level for over 15 years. He is a member of a number of trainer pools: for the French National Agency, SALTO Euromed, SALTO TCP and in the Youthpass trainers group... He works also at national level, consulting and supporting strategies for international mobility and cultural diversity, implemented by local authorities. He is the co-founder and co-manager of the cooperative company KALEIDO'SCOP. ([www.kaleido-scop.eu](http://www.kaleido-scop.eu))

**Lilit Asatryan** is the founder and president of Armenian Youth Women's Association. She is an expert in the youth field, giving lectures and trainings on youth participation, women leadership, skills development and other subjects. From 2003 to 2009 Lilit was the representative from Armenia in the European Steering Committee for Youth (CDEJ). In the period 2003-2005 she served as a Deputy Minister of Culture and Youth Affairs of the Republic of Armenia.

**Rita Bergstein** lives in Germany (Cologne) and is currently working for the SALTO Training and Cooperation Resource Centre - main focus: Youthpass and recognition of non-formal learning. Before that she was active as a trainer, social worker and project manager at national and international levels. She believes in the potential and value of non-formal learning and its contribution to the lives of (young) people and to the world.

**Des Burke** is the Programme Manager for Youth Affairs in Léargas which provides the National Agency for the Youth in Action Programme in Ireland. Léargas operates under the aegis of the Office of the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs in the Department of Health and Children. Des is a member of the working group on risk and young person protection which is composed of national agencies and the European Commission.

**Filip Coussée** has a background in local youth work and youth work policy. Currently he is senior researcher at the Department of Social Welfare Studies (Ghent University). He has a PhD on the meaning of youth work from the perspective of young people and its significance for a social pedagogical understanding of youth work. His current research focuses on participation in and through youth work. He is involved in the European ongoing study on the history of youth work.

**Marija Gajić** (1972, Belgrade, Serbia) is an international freelance trainer in personal, professional and civil society development programmes; and she often works as a theatre director and performer. She has expertise in the following areas of training: training of trainers; conflict transformation; intercultural learning; teamwork and leadership; and creativity development programmes. Founder and director of the training agency and creative platform "Miracle Factory" [www.miraclefactory.rs](http://www.miraclefactory.rs)

**Milena Karisik** works for VYRE, the only network of refugee youth in Europe aiming to make their voices heard. VYRE's long-term aim is to positively change the lives of young refugees/exiles through unifying our voices in order to influence social and policy change at national, European and global levels and to realize our equal human rights and dignity.

**Leo Kaserer** (Austrian) was born in 1970 and is currently living in the United Kingdom and Austria. He works as a freelance trainer for SALTO's and National Agencies among others. As the founder and president of the youth centre Big Banana and as one of the initiators of the Rückenwind Strategy his focus is the work with young people with fewer opportunities. Since Autumn 2009 he lectures on social area analysis at the University of Innsbruck.

**Nadine Lyamouri-Bajja** works as an educational advisor in the European Youth Centre of the DYS in Strasbourg. Her main working areas are intercultural dialogue and social cohesion. She is coordinating the long-term training course on the Access to Social Rights for young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods.

**Pierre Mairesse** studied engineering and information technology at the universities of Lille and Montreal. He joined the European Commission in 1984 and worked in the Directorate-General for Staff and Administration until 1992. Between 1996 and 1999 he was the Head of Unit for «Programming, Budget, and Finance» in the Commission's Directorate-General «Information, Communication, Culture, Audiovisual». He later served as Head of Unit for «Youth – Policies and Programme» and as acting director before he became director for «Youth, Sport and Citizenship» in 2006. He is the Director of Youth and Sport in DG Education and Culture.

**Nik Paddison** is a professionally-trained youth worker from the UK currently working as a freelance trainer and developer with Team Mais in Portugal. He started European level training in 1998 with Youth Express Network and later with ENOA. For the last six years he was teaching a Non-Formal Education certificate level youth worker course across the Balkans with Forum Syd. And for two of those years he worked with Triagolnik – Centre for Non-Formal Education in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. He was responsible for the implementation of the youth worker course into South East European University (SEEU). He writes monthly articles on facilitation and group work for HR Global, a human resources magazine.

**Hans-Joachim Schild** has been living in Strasbourg since summer 2005 and works as manager of the partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the field of Youth. Previously Hans-Joachim lived and worked in Brussels for the Youth Policy Unit in DG Education and Culture of the European Commission; amongst other topics he was responsible for the relationship of the youth sector to «lifelong learning», specifically for the whole subject of recognition of non-formal and informal learning. In this period he was involved in drafting and implementing the White Paper on Youth.

**Tracy Shildrick** is a Reader in Sociology at the University of Teesside. She convenes the Teesside Youth Research Group and has researched and written widely about young people.

**Mark Taylor** is a freelance trainer and consultant currently based in Strasbourg. He was recently re-elected as president of the UNIQUE network. He has worked on projects throughout Europe and beyond for a wide range of organisations, institutions, agencies and businesses. Major areas of work include: intercultural learning, international team work, training for trainers, and developing concepts and practice for the recognition of non-formal learning. A founding member of the Coyote magazine editorial team, he is still waiting to meet Spiffy!

**Ralf-Rene Weingaertner** studied law, psychology, economics and political and social sciences in both Germany and the United States (LLM). He holds a PHD in Sociology on Theories of Modernization. Since 1988 has held posts in both national and international public administration including higher management positions in various institutions, including the European Commission and the German Representation to the European Union. In January 2004, he was appointed to the post of Director of Youth and Sport at the Council of Europe.

**Antonia Wulff** has a background in the school student movement and is currently the chair of the Advisory Council on Youth of the Council of Europe.