



# THE FINAL UPDATES FOR YOU!

*Dear youth policy shapers,*

*We have finally met in Istanbul! Not only time flew, but you did as well...*

*Even though a few months is not really a long time to bring big changes in the field of youth policy, it is very interesting to see how the landscape of youth policy in each of our participant countries has been evolving since we left Bremen.*

**Some news on recent developments from Germany and Serbia are here for you!**



## “TACH” FROM GERMANY

### THREE ACTION IDEAS WE HAD BACK IN BREMEN WERE...

1. Youth Participation and the new EU Youth Strategy: Establishment of a youth participation process in Germany in view of the new EU Youth Strategy from 2018 on.
2. Cross-sectorial youth policy in Germany: Processing of materials about the development of a Youth Check in Germany
3. Priority topics of German youth policy: Position paper on the topic of “free space ” for young people

### WHAT HAS HAPPENED SINCE?

#### 1. Youth Participation and the new EU Youth Strategy

Very soon a debate will have to start how Germany sees the new EU Youth Strategy after 2018 and what kind of youth policy priorities Germany wants to have in it. Hmm... but how about the wishes and ideas of young people?

Our delegation wants to contribute to the establishment of a process/project in Germany that ensures the involvement and participation of young people in the formulation of a German position to the new EU Youth Strategy after 2018.

One of the criteria of this process should be to combine the currently existing different youth participation processes on national level and to try to create synergies between them.

Two major participation projects on national level currently run by the German National Youth Council are:

- Ich mache Politik (I do politics)

In the frame of the development of a new youth policy in Germany a National Working Group called Youth creates future has been established. I do politics is the youth participation element of this working group. Young people have the opportunity to influence the activities and the topics of the working group.

- Coordination Office for the implementation of the Structured Dialogue in Germany

Since 2010 the Coordination Office manages the process of the Structured Dialogue in Germany and is part of the implementation of the EU Youth Strategy.

## 2. Cross-sectorial youth policy in Germany

In the frame of the new national Youth Strategy a Youth Check is going to be developed in Germany. Therefore a synopsis of current existing "youth check models" worldwide has been prepared by the Coordination Office "Acting for a youth-friendly society". There will also be a mid-term report resuming and evaluating the first steps undertaken in this process. The synopsis is already translated into English and will be available for the other delegations of the seminar and of course beyond! The report will follow.

The German government will develop in the current legislative period a Youth Check in order to screen if legislative measures are compatible with the interests of young people. This plan is part of the coalition agreement and will be carried out in close cooperation with the German National Youth Council (DBJR), the German Youth Institute and the Child and Youth Welfare Association (AGJ). In the meantime 6 workshops have taken place.

A midterm-report describing the development of the Youth Check has been published and is being discussed in different bodies. The Federal Ministry sees this report as good basis for now realization phase. The Youth Check is going to be tested and statutorily implemented in 4 draft laws.

In the future, our team will serve as forum for further professional exchange and it will steer the process of the development of test criteria. On June 15th information event about the Youth Check will take place in the Federal Ministry for Youth in Berlin.

## 3. Cross-sectorial youth policy in Germany

The new German youth policy campaigns for more free spaces for young people. The idea behind this is that young people need sufficient space and time for their personal development. They need accepted "timeouts" and more space to be able to unfold and to co-create their surrounding and to participate in society. This principle could be seen as an argument for youth work which is definitely a field that can deliver those times and spaces for young people.

We plan to write a position paper collecting arguments for this principle. The paper will give an impetus to the German debate. We will also translate it into English and thereby foster the European debate about youth policy and especially about youth work.

For the time being no official position paper has been written so far. But the topic is still relevant for the process of the development of a new youth policy in Germany and it is still on the youth policy



agenda in Germany in general.

In the biggest German Federal State (Northrhine-Westphalia) f.e. the Working Group of Youth Associations has launched the campaign “Alliance for free space”. This alliance shall be a concrete step towards an “intervening youth policy” to improve the living conditions of young people.

The starting point for the campaign was the observation that there is more and more pressure put on young people by increasing demands from the education and labour market field. A study for Germany found out that young people in Germany spend much more than 35 hours per week (not including homework and additional learning times) in school. Therefore they have less and less time for leisure activities and also for youth work activities. Many young people complain about “burn out” symptoms and are stressed by pressure on time and performance, which is negative for their mental, physical and social well-being. The campaign has 3 central demands:

1. Young people need deceleration!
2. Young people need time!
3. Young people need space!



## SOME MORE THOUGHTS ON FREE SPACES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

- Free spaces as self-determined periods of time are characterized by the fact that they don't have to serve a purpose. Playing, reading, sportive activities are just as possible as “doing nothing”. Young people need time to gain their own experiences, to forge their own opinions and to get involved. Free spaces are also important for thinking and developing new ideas.
- Young people need rooms for retirement and to chill; to secure those rooms is also a task of child and youth care.
- Rooms/places which can be visited voluntarily and self-determined by children, where they can try things out for themselves, meet and exchange on their own, without being evaluated by others, play an essential role.
- Education for young people is much more than just school and takes place in substantial parts out of the formal education system. Therefore young people do need education and learning experiences as well in extracurricular places and in informal settings.
- Limitation of school time to max. 35 hours a week
- A common free afternoon for all students
- Adaptation and if necessary reduction of the curriculum and learning contents
- More recognition and acceptance of young people and their youth cultures in public space
- Youth-friendly design of public place





# “ЗДРАВО” FROM SERBIA



## MOST IMPORTANT RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE FIELD

- A new national programme for youth employment is adopted by the prime minister and four ministries in charge of youth, education, work and economy.
- The development of a Network of Local Youth Policy Actors is initiated with the National Youth Council, National Association of Youth Offices and the Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities.
- Youth in Western Balkans Region are going to get their cooperation office. It is expected to be functional from the beginning of 2017. This regionally owned structure is unique.
- National campaign Think on Youth! is implemented by National Youth Council and funded by Ministry of Youth, arguing why mainstreaming youth must be the national choice. The hashtag of the campaign is #YouthOnGovernment
- The main trend in Serbian youth policy is still about how to create more jobs for young people and strengthen their employability. As one of the tools, the Government declared 2016 as the year of entrepreneurship with a special focus on young people.

## WE ARE CHALLENGED WITH...

- Serbia had local and national elections in April, with parliamentary elections being extraordinary, after two years of this government. This has delayed the new laws on youth and volunteering, that are very important for the youth sector.
- Inter-sectoral cooperation and youth work recognition both remain a challenge.
- Competing actors. The evaluation of the previous national youth policy while the new one was already being written is a good example for this dilemma.

### Youth Partnership

Partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the field of youth



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## TO MAKE A STEP FORWARD WE NEED...

Stronger understanding of youth policy in a scope of inter-sectoral cooperation. This has also been emphasized by the evaluation of the National Youth Strategy 2009–2014

Recognition of youth work must be pushed as one of the important goals in recent time. However, this is also a question of inter-sectoral understanding of the nature of youth work, so it is hard to expect a fast development

More resources for youth organisation's capacity building

Ensuring that young people are more interested in active citizenship and participation

## THINGS WE HAVE DONE SINCE WE LEFT BREMEN

- We launched our advocacy campaign for inter-sectoral cooperation "Think of Youth!" Within the campaign few events are organized, one for partners and friends of KOMS, as a small launch party, working breakfast for representatives of ministries, and a conference for all kind of stakeholders. Also promotional videos were made, as well as New Year Greeting cards for decision makers, and other materials.
- The Germany-led Multilateral Cooperation Project on enhancing learning mobility has started to realise. Due to the elections, a final decision about Serbia's participation in the project remains to be made.



*Impressions from events run by the Serbian team*

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## TOP OF THE HEAD QUESTIONS FOR YOU 😊

- 3 What motivates you the most to work in the youth field?
- 3 How to get youth in risk to participate?
- 3 What's the next step after the 2nd part of the seminar?

## SOME FACTS AND FIGURES TO KEEP IN MIND

### GERMANY

[HTTP://PJP-EU.COE.INT/EN/WEB/YOUTH-PARTNERSHIP/GERMANY](http://PJP-EU.COE.INT/EN/WEB/YOUTH-PARTNERSHIP/GERMANY)  
[HTTP://WWW.YOUTHPOLICY.ORG/FACTSHEETS/COUNTRY/GERMANY/](http://WWW.YOUTHPOLICY.ORG/FACTSHEETS/COUNTRY/GERMANY/)

### SERBIA

[HTTP://PJP-EU.COE.INT/EN/WEB/YOUTH-PARTNERSHIP/SERBIA](http://PJP-EU.COE.INT/EN/WEB/YOUTH-PARTNERSHIP/SERBIA)  
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**MANY WARM MORNING GREETINGS!**  
**YOUR SEMINAR TEAM**