

## **Youth Partnership**

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



EUROPEAN UNION



COUNCIL OF EUROPE  
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE



## ***2015/2016 seminar on youth policy making based on evidence & participatory principles***

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### **Strategies, triangles and coincidences –**

### **Shaping European youth policies in theory and practice**

### ***Seminar report***

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*BREMEN, 07.-10. SEPTEMBER 2015  
ISTANBUL, 03.-06. MAY 2016*

# **PART A**

**SUMMARY**

**CONTEXT**

**FRAMEWORK**

## **A.1) Summary: overview and outline of the seminar on youth policy making**

<u>Seminar title:</u>	<b>Strategies, triangles and coincidences: Shaping European youth policies in theory and practice</b>
<u>Main aim:</u>	The seminar aimed to inspire and empower actors in the youth field to shape European youth policies in theory and practice.
<u>Seminar format:</u>	The seminar consisted of two events with 3 working days each, taking the time to bring European youth policies from concept and theory (first seminar, 7-10 September 2015) to practice and reality (time between both seminars) and reflection and critique (second seminar, 2016, 3-6 May 2016).
<u>Main target group:</u>	<p>Teams of actors in the youth field in governmental and non-governmental contexts at European, national, regional and/or local level who want to strengthen the implementation of European youth policy.</p> <p>This included (1) youth activists, youth representatives and youth leaders, (2) youth policy-makers and decision-makers, (3) youth researchers from various disciplines, (4) youth workers and youth trainers who are working in governments or non-governmental organisations, youth groups or youth clubs, research institutes or universities, collectively, individually and/or free-lance.</p>
<u>Pilot target group:</u>	The seminar sought to bring together six country teams of 3–5 actors, who would like to strengthen the implementation of youth policies in their context. Teams would ideally include one governmental and one non-governmental youth sector representative and seek a gender-balanced composition including, for example, national agencies, youth-led organisations, youth activist movements, youth researchers, youth knowledge providers, youth information officers, youth (programme) officers, youth workers, youth trainers and/or youth support structures.
<u>Call for participants:</u>	<p>The following steps were taken to attract and select participants:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. An invitation was issued to all 50 countries signatory to the European Cultural Convention, inviting governments to take the lead in composing country teams.</li><li>2. The stakeholders of the course composed the course group from among the suggested teams, also taking potential interest from the MENA region into account.</li></ol>

## **A.2) Context: the rationale behind the initiative to develop this seminar**

The partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the field of youth, the German National Agency “Jugend für Europa” and the SALTO Training and Cooperation Resource Centre – both of the Youth in Action Programme – have developed and tested the curriculum for a seminar on youth policy making based on evidence and participatory principles.

In view of the renewed 2010-2018 youth strategy of the European Union and the Agenda 2020 youth strategy of the Council of Europe, stakeholders and experts had identified the need to support key actors in the wider Europe with further information and training on youth policy topics.

The target group of such a course should be actors involved in the implementation of European youth policy at regional, national and European level coming from institutions and administrations as well as organisations and networks. In 2013 and 2014, a pilot course was organised to verify and further improve the curriculum.

In order to develop the initial curriculum of the course, the EU-CoE youth partnership and the SALTO RC T&C as well as Jugend für Europa organised a preparatory meeting in November 2012 with experts from various structures in the youth field. A second meeting in May 2013 discussed key aspects of the curriculum that has been developed and continued with the preparation of the seminar.

Information had then been sent to all 50 European states signatory to the European Cultural Convention in mid-2013, inviting governments to take the lead in composing country teams and the European Youth Forum to take the lead in composing a European team for the 2013/2014 pilot edition of the course.

The pilot course brought together teams from Germany, Lithuania, Malta, Romania, Slovenia, and the Ukraine, as well as a European team, for a first seminar in Malta in December 2013 and in Berlin in June 2014. Reports for both seminars, as well as an evaluation of the pilot phase, are available.

The second edition of the course, covered by this report, brought together teams from Armenia, Belgium (Flanders), Estonia, Germany, Serbia and Turkey, for a first seminar in Bremen in September 2015 and in Istanbul in May 2016. If you are interested in joining future editions of the seminar on youth policy making, please get in touch with Claudius Siebel ([siebel@jfe-mail.de](mailto:siebel@jfe-mail.de)). *Thank you!*

### **A.3) Objectives, outcomes & methodology: what should the seminar achieve?**

Objectives: The seminar aspired to

- introduce European youth policy frameworks and relate those frameworks to the variety of realities from local and regional to national and European levels
- analyse youth policy concepts and investigate why concepts are built on specific approaches, such as youth rights, policy aims or policy cycles
- interrogate the main principles of youth policy, from evidence-based and participatory to transversal and cross-sectoral narratives
- facilitate the translation of European youth policy frameworks to manageable strategies for intervention in the contexts of the actors present

Outcomes: At the end of the seminar, participants were to

- be familiar with the European youth policy frameworks and their political cornerstones, such as main resolutions and declaration
- be familiar with the stakeholders involved, their roles and their previous and current activities and actions on youth policy
- be familiar with the principles underpinning youth policies in Europe, including evidence-based and participatory approaches
- be familiar with typical instruments and approaches to youth policy across spatial levels and political domains
- be familiar with available resources to support youth policy development and implementation across Europe
- be confident in translating youth policy frameworks to contextualised intervention strategies and realising such strategies through feasible action plans

Methodology: Throughout the seminar, participants were to

- explore the numerous experiences of actors present at the seminar with youth policy development and youth policy implementation
- consider key socio-political developments that frame youth policy from its development to its implementation, governance and evaluation
- examine youth policy strategies, approaches and instruments including relevant aspects of their emergence, formation and development
- explore dilemmas inherent in youth policies, such as problem-orientation, intergenerational justice or competing sets of indicators
- constructively critique European youth policy frameworks as well as the strategies and intervention plans developed throughout the seminar

#### **A.4) Framework: the four phases of the seminar**

The seminar consisted of four phases: (1) a three-day residential kick-off event, (2) a phase allowing participants to test chosen approaches, ideas and/or activities in their context, (3) a three-day residential evaluative event, and (4) a follow-up phase.

##### Phase 1 – Concepts and theory (Bremen, September 2015, residential)

The first residential event served as the overall kick-off and thematic introduction for the entire seminar. The steps covered during these three days were:

- Introduction, contextualisation and getting to know each other
- Connecting participants: experiences with youth policy development & implementation
- European frameworks: introducing youth policy frameworks and their political narrative
- Youth policy stakeholders: previous and current activities of main stakeholders
- Youth policy components: strategies, approaches and instruments for youth policy
- Youth policy concepts: logics underpinning youth policy, from rights to cycles
- Youth policy principles: evidence-based, participatory and cross-sectoral policies
- Youth policy instruments: what works and doesn't work across domains and contexts
- Youth policy strategies: contextualised strategies and action plans of participants

##### Phase 2 – practice and reality (across Europe and the Mediterranean, non-residential)

The practice phase in between the two residential events allowed participants to try and verify chosen elements from the youth policy strategies and intervention plans they developed. During this phase, each team:

- met once to check on everyone's progress and discuss the various next steps
- got in touch once with another team to facilitate peer learning and exchange
- shared short reports and received constructive feedback from the training team

##### Phase 3 – Reflection and critique (Istanbul, May 2016, residential)

The second residential event served as the main point of reflection and critique, combined with an adjustment of strategies and plans. The steps covered during these three days were:

- evaluating and critiquing the tested approaches, ideas and/or activities during phase 2
- exploring dilemmas inherent in youth policies, from local through to European level
- revisiting and revising the previously developed strategies in light of made experiences

##### Phase 4 – Follow-up (across Europe and the Mediterranean, non-residential)

The follow-up phase supported participants in their further youth policy engagement through:

- ideally another meeting in their respective teams to facilitate collaborative action
- reports, documents and other support material provided to the seminar participants

## A.5) Programme flow: the phases and steps at a glance

<b>1: Concepts and theory</b> <b>First residential event</b>	<b>2: Practice and reality</b> <b>Activities, actions, ideas</b>	<b>3: Reflection &amp; critique</b> <b>Second residential event</b>	<b>4: Follow-up</b> <b>Making it real</b>
<i>Day 1</i>	<i>Months 1 &amp; 2</i>	<i>Day 1</i>	<i>Month 1</i>
<p><i>Context &amp; introductions:</i></p> <p>What are the aims of this seminar? Who are the people involved? What are our different expectations? What are our experiences with youth policy?</p>	<p><i>Preparation &amp; planning:</i></p> <p>Finalising preparations for the action or activity, as planned during the first residential event.</p> <p>Feedback from own team and other teams</p>	<p><i>Revisiting phase 2:</i></p> <p>What have we tried, and why? What has worked, and why? What hasn't worked, and why? What are the implications for our approaches to youth policy implementation?</p>	<p><i>Digestion &amp; planning:</i></p> <p>Verifying in own organisations what kind of follow-up work is feasible and who can realise it</p> <p>Feedback from own team and other teams</p>
<i>Day 2</i>	<i>Months 3 &amp; 4</i>	<i>Day 2</i>	<i>Month 2</i>
<p><i>Concepts &amp; theory:</i></p> <p>Which approaches to youth policy exist? What are usual components? What are the main principles? What are the main instruments? And which logics &amp; ideas underpin youth policy?</p>	<p><i>Making youth policy real:</i></p> <p>Implementation of the chosen local youth policy action, idea or activity</p> <p>Feedback and support from own team, other teams and training team</p>	<p><i>Dilemmas &amp; problems:</i></p> <p>Which dilemmas and problems are typical when dealing with youth policy? How can we address them, both conceptually and in practice? What does this mean for our work?</p>	<p><i>Sharing &amp; discussing:</i></p> <p>Discussions of final plans for action once they have been verified in own organisations</p> <p>Feedback and support from own team, other teams and training team</p>
<i>Day 3</i>	<i>Months 5 &amp; 6</i>	<i>Day 3</i>	<i>Month 3</i>
<p><i>From theory to practice:</i></p> <p>How can youth policy function across domains, contexts, levels? What are successful models for strategies, actions and approaches? Which strategies, actions and approaches would we like to try out during the second phase? What kind of support will we need to be successful?</p>	<p><i>Preparing for phase 3:</i></p> <p>Documentation and critical evaluation of the action or activity on youth policy</p> <p>What went well? What went wrong?</p> <p>Feedback from own team, other teams and training team</p>	<p><i>From insight to reality:</i></p> <p>Which consequences should we draw from the lessons learned during the seminar? How can we translate the insights into our daily youth policy work? What kind of support will we need to be successful? How can we improve the quality and impact of youth policy work in Europe?</p>	<p><i>From learning to sharing:</i></p> <p>Developing contributions to share experiences and insights with the sector</p> <p>Articles for, for example, Coyote, the Partnership Series &amp; <a href="http://youthpolicy.org">youthpolicy.org</a></p> <p>Feedback and support from own team, other teams, training team as well as stakeholders</p>

# **PART B**

## **BREMEN**

**September 7-10, 2015**

**Programme overview**

*and*

**Session outlines**



## B.1) DAILY PROGRAMME OF FIRST RESIDENTIAL SEMINAR (BREMEN, SEPTEMBER 2015)

	MONDAY, September 7 <sup>th</sup>	TUESDAY, September 8th	WEDNESDAY, September 9th	THURSDAY, September 10th
9.00 – 11.00	ARRIVAL	Exploring Main Principles of Youth Policy: participatory, cross-sectoral, knowledge-based (part 1)	Looking Back and Reflecting on the Study Visits  Exploring Different Concepts of Youth Policy (rights, needs & wellbeing)	Reflection and Planning of Next Steps to be Taken (what do we need to make it happen ?)
11.00 – 11.30		Coffee Break		
		Exploring main Principles of Youth Policy: participatory, cross-sectoral knowledge-based (part 2)	Main Challenges for Youth Policy in Bremen and across Europe <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• mapping of the challenges</li><li>• Input by guest speakers<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Inge Kilian (Senat)</li><li>- Rolf Diener (Head Local Youth Department)</li></ul></li></ul>	Agreements on Next Steps (online phase, support by team, etc.)  Closure
13.00 – 15.00	Lunch			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Welcoming and Opening</li><li>• Intro: Context, Frame, Programme, Participants, Team and Venue</li><li>• Getting in Touch: Me and Youth Policy</li><li>• Getting started: What Experiences do I Have?</li></ul>	Study Visit: Understanding Youth Participation in Bremen (Start: 14:30) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Exhibition: Youth councils in Bremen</li><li>• Structured Dialogue in Bremen</li></ul>	Spotlight on Examples of Youth Policy across Europe (successes and failures)	DEPARTURE
16.30 – 17.00	Coffee Break			
17.00 – 18.30	Timeline of Youth Policy Milestones (Local/Regional/National/European)	Study Visit (16:00 - 18:00) Greeting in the Town Hall <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Talk with Senator Anja Stahmann</li><li>• Guided Tour through Town Hall</li></ul>	Reflection and Planning of next Steps to be taken (setting priorities in national delegations)	
20.00	Dinner			
	Welcome	Free evening	Dinner in town	

## B.2) Programme details: the session outlines

*The session outlines are presented chronologically.*

Title of the session	<b>Getting started – main elements of youth policy</b>
Sequence in the training	<i>Seminar 1, Day 1, afternoon</i>
Duration of the session	3 working hours
Aim and rationale	The session aimed to open up the discussion on youth policy and to familiarise participants with each other through working with concrete experiences of participants.
Objectives of the session	<p>The objectives of the session were to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- animate participants to get in touch with each other</li> <li>- make the relationship between each individual participant and youth policy explicit</li> <li>- share concrete experiences, learn from each other and start reflecting on the meaning of the experiences in a broader youth policy context</li> <li>- exemplify the diversity of youth policy approaches and realities</li> <li>- set the ground for controversial discussions on youth policy</li> </ul>
Session format & methodology	Group discussions in changing constellations, presentations in plenary, individual reflection, open discussions and exchanges on given topics.
Programme of the session	<p>15:00 Welcoming, political opening, media interviews</p> <p>Round of names and institutions: who is here?</p> <p>15:30 Intro to context, frame, programme, team and venue</p> <p>16:00 Getting in touch with each other: Me and youth policy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The first time I got in touch with youth policy ...</li> <li>- What I do now in/on youth policy ...</li> <li>- My ambitions regarding youth policy are ...</li> </ul> <p>Exchange in changing groups of 4, spotlights with entire group</p> <p>16:30 Coffee break</p> <p>17:00 Milestones of youth policies across Europe (I)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Which milestones have shaped youth policy in your country?</li> <li>- Preparation in country teams: milestones on paper, pick 5 key ones</li> <li>- Add a sixth milestone capturing the current situation</li> <li>- Presentation of milestones, part 1</li> </ul> <p>18:30 Dinner</p>

Title of the session	<b>Examining youth policy – concepts, principles and practices</b>
Sequence in the training	<i>Seminar 1, Day 2, entire day</i>
Duration of the session	6.5 working hours
Aim and rationale	The day aimed to examine and interrogate youth policy by critically looking at concepts with their underlying principles, and to explore how youth policy is approached and implemented in the state of Bremen.
Objectives of the session	<p>The objectives of the day were to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- introduce and compare basic concepts underpinning youth policy, with a focus on participatory approaches</li> <li>- highlight relevant distinctions, discrepancies and deficiencies of the various concepts introduced</li> <li>- explore the realities, achievements and challenges of youth policy across Europe and more extensively in the state of Bremen</li> <li>- initiate and facilitate controversial discussions on youth policy</li> </ul>
Session format & methodology	Input, group discussion, creative formats (songs, sketches), field visit
Programme of the session	<p>09:00 Intro to the day</p> <p>09:15 Milestones of youth policies across Europe (II)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Presentation of milestones, part 2</li> <li>- Team added milestones for European and global youth policy</li> <li>- Participants positioned themselves along milestones</li> </ul> <p>10:00 Introduction to participatory youth policies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Models of youth participation and guiding questions</li> </ul> <p>10:30 In how many ways does youth participation not work?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- sketches, songs, statues on the failures of participatory approaches</li> </ul> <p>11:00 Coffee break (included)</p> <p>11:30 Sketches on the failures of youth participation</p> <p>13:00 Lunch break</p> <p>14:30 Study visit to explore youth participation in Bremen</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Exhibition: Youth councils in Bremen</li> <li>- Structured Dialogue in Bremen</li> <li>- Welcome by Senator Anja Stahmann, represented by Dr. Heidemarie Rose</li> <li>- Guided tour through town hall</li> </ul> <p>18:30 End of programme</p>

Title of the session	<b>Youth policy inside out – agendas and realities</b>
Sequence in the training	<i>Seminar 1, Day 3, entire day</i>
Duration of the session	6.5 working hours
Aim and rationale	The day aimed to transfer insights from studying youth policy in Bremen to diverse European contexts, to explore challenges for youth policy across Europe, and to identify spaces for intervention.
Objectives of the session	<p>The objectives of the day were to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- support participants in drawing conclusions from youth policy in Bremen relevant to their own context</li> <li>- use the realities of youth policy in Bremen as a starting point to explore challenges to youth policy across Europe</li> <li>- explore knowledge-based and cross-sectorial approaches to youth policy</li> <li>- discuss and decide which policy spaces would be most promising to try and intervene in through own actions</li> </ul>
Session format & methodology	group discussion, panel debate, group work, critical feedback
Programme of the session	<p>09:00 Intro to the day</p> <p>09:10 Wrap-up of the previous day: lessons from the study visits</p> <p>09:40 Introducing knowledge-based and cross-sectorial policies</p> <p>10:00 Why do these two principles hardly ever work in practice?</p> <p>- Group discussions on reasons for the difficulties</p> <p>12:00 Panel discussion with Inge Kilian (Senat Bremen) and Rolf Diener (Head Local Youth Department) to explore challenges to European youth policy at local and regional level</p> <p>13:30 Lunch break</p> <p>14:30 Presenting and sharing the challenges in making knowledge-based and cross-sectorial youth policies work</p> <p>16:30 Coffee break</p> <p>17:00 Identifying arenas for intervention in each country team</p> <p>18:30 End of programme</p> <p>19:30 Dinner in town</p>

Title of the proposed session	<b>Taking youth policy home – strategies, plans, ideas and support</b>
Sequence in the training	<i>Seminar 1, Day 4, morning</i>
Duration of the session	3.5 working hours
Aim and rationale	The session aimed to inspire participants to take youth policy from concept to practice, decide on own actions and define measures of (peer) support.
Objectives of the session	<p>The objectives of the session were to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- plan concrete actions and activities to test and verify the approach to and vision of youth policy developed throughout the seminar</li> <li>- invite participants to creatively develop ideas for actions and interventions suitable for their specific context and reality</li> <li>- develop both an atmosphere and a structure that allows participants to use the second phase as a test-bed, failures included</li> <li>- familiarise participants with support and resource structures available at local, regional, national and European level</li> </ul>
Session format & methodology	Project ideation, project presentation, feedback, group discussion, plenary exchanges, project planning
Programme of the session	<p>09:00 Introduction to the day</p> <p>09:15 The actions: sharing ideas for shaping youth policies across Europe</p> <p>10:00 Going beyond borders: developing ideas for actions across country teams and within professional groups (policy, practice, research)</p> <p>11:00 Planning next steps for key activities</p> <p>12:00 Sharing the key agreements</p> <p>12:30 Support during the coming nine months, wishes for the next phase</p>

# **PART C**

## **NEWSLETTER N° 1**

# HAPPY 2016, LET IT BE A PROSPEROUS FOR YOUTH POLICY DEVELOPMENT!

*Dear youth policy shapers across Europe,*

*First of all, a Happy New Year to all of you! We hope you had a fun time over Christmas and New Years and could take some time to relax and replenish. This is our first newsletter, full of strategies, triangles and coincidences, and we hope that it helps a little with the January blues...*

## What has happened since Bremen?



## GLOBALLY

For the first time, the UN Security Council adopted a resolution on young people. Read more at:

→ [HTTP://WWW.YOUTHPOLICY.ORG/BLOG/PEACEBUILDING/UN-SECURITY-COUNCIL-RESOLUTION-YOUTH/](http://www.youthpolicy.org/blog/peacebuilding/un-security-council-resolution-youth/)

The World Health Organisation (WHO) took a closer look at youth violence, 4th leading cause of death among young people:

→ [HTTP://WWW.UN.ORG/YOUTHENVOY/2015/12/YOUTH-VIOLENCE-IS-A-GLOBAL-PUBLIC-HEALTH-PROBLEM-WHO/](http://www.un.org/youthenvoy/2015/12/youth-violence-is-a-global-public-health-problem-who/)



## IN EUROPE

The European Commission published the EU Youth Report 2015, with all country reports, available here:

→ [HTTP://EC.EUROPA.EU/YOUTH/POLICY/IMPLEMENTATION/REPORT\\_EN.HTM](http://ec.europa.eu/youth/policy/implementation/report_en.htm)

The European Parliament announced that the next European Youth Event will take place in Strasborg on 20 & 21 May 2016:

→ [HTTP://WWW.EUROPARL.EUROPA.EU/EUROPEAN-YOUTH-EVENT/EN/HOME/HOME.HTML](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/european-youth-event/en/home/home.html)

The Council of Europe overhauled its Youth Work Portfolio, which now has an online tool reachable at:

→ [HTTP://WWW.COE.INT/EN/WEB/YOUTH-PORTFOLIO](http://www.coe.int/en/web/youth-portfolio)

The Youth Partnership published Volume 2 of Perspectives on Youth, "Connections and disconnections," available here:

→ [HTTP://PJP-EU.COE.INT/DE/WEB/YOUTH-PARTNERSHIP/ISSUE-2](http://PJP-EU.COE.INT/DE/WEB/YOUTH-PARTNERSHIP/ISSUE-2)



## IN OUR COUNTRIES

**Germany** has published a discussion paper on the youth check for laws and regulations that the Government has committed to introducing:

→ [HTTPS://WWW.JUGENDGERECHT.DE/JUGEND-CHECK/DISKUSSIONSPAPIER-ZUR-ENTWICKLUNG-EINES-JUGEND-CHECKS/](https://www.jugendgerecht.de/jugend-check/diskussionspapier-zur-entwicklung-eines-jugend-checks/)

**Armenia** has finalized two research projects: 1. Mapping of different understandings and types of youth work in Armenia 2. Understanding main challenges and opportunities of youth work in Armenia. Gyumri has been announced the Capital of Youth for 2016! Congratulations!

**Estonia** is in the middle of their first implementation plan cycle under the new Youth Field Development Plan 2014-2010. Learn more:

→ [HTTPS://WWW.HM.EE/EN/ACTIVITIES/YOUTH/YOUTH-POLICY](https://www.hm.ee/en/activities/youth/youth-policy)

The **Flemish** youth and children's rights policy plan 2015-2019 now exists in English. Get it here:

→ [HTTP://WWW.JKP.VLAANDEREN/ASSETS/DOWNLOADS/JKP\\_SUMMARY\\_DIGITAL\\_VERSION.PDF](http://www.jkp.vlaanderen/assets/downloads/jkp_summary_digital_version.pdf)

**Serbia's** new national youth policy, covering 2015-2015, is now available in English and online at:

→ [HTTP://WWW.MOS.GOV.RS/WP-CONTENT/UPLOADS/DOWNLOAD-MANAGER-FILES/NSM%202015%2025%20ENGLISH%20..PDF](http://www.mos.gov.rs/wp-content/uploads/download-manager-files/nsm%202015%2025%20ENGLISH%20..pdf)

On 18 and 19 November 2015, **Turkey** hosted the first preparatory meeting for our second seminar, which is now confirmed to take place from May 3 (arrival in the morning) to May 6 (departure in the evening) in Istanbul.



### What will happen next?

*In each of the next newsletters, we will feature two country teams and look at their progress, actions, thoughts, questions and developments. In the first of these newsletters, we will take a closer look at Armenia and Estonia – expect us to be in touch soon to agree on dates for a Skype call :-)*

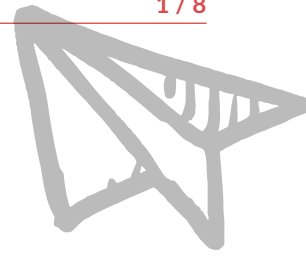
*All the best and many greetings from Anahit, Andreas, Claudius, Davide and Mustafa*



# **PART C**

## **NEWSLETTER N° 2**

# SOME UPDATES FLYING TO YOU!



*Dear youth policy shapers,*

*We will very soon meet in Istanbul! Yes time flies ...*

*Even though 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 country has been evolving since we left Bremen.*

**Some news on recent developments from Estonia, Turkey, Armenia are here for you!**



## “TERE” FROM ESTONIA

Thanks to EU funding there have been several new projects started this year related to youth policy. Projects cover entire Estonia and offer many new opportunities to young people. Better cooperation with local municipalities in the field of youth policy and new solutions in the field of youth work to boost youth employment are some of the elements.



*A training course for representatives of municipalities to discuss the future of youth work*

## SOME OF THE INTERESTING ADVANCEMENTS ON STATE LEVEL

1st of January came to effect new Child Protection Act, which puts emphasis on child rights. In addition to different principles the act provides a legal basis for national child welfare agency. The agency would combine responsibilities from different areas and ministries: social, mental health, education, justice.

Support system for concept of youth recreation was presented to the Government. With this support system the Parliament gives 6 million euros in 2017 and 15 million euros in 2018 to local governments in order to support youth initiative and recreation activities.

The Bill on Amendments to the Local Government Council Election Act was passed in the Parliament, which gives youngsters who have attained at least sixteen years of age right to vote in elections to local authority councils (the Constitution already gives 16 year olds right to vote on localelections, but the bill was last legal step which needed to pass).

## MAIN CONCERNS...

- How to better insure the inclusion of young people not in employment, education or training (NEET) and youngsters at risk?
- Now when the voting age is lowered, how to insure better civic education in and out of formal educational setting for young people?

## MAIN TREND...

There is a big wave of innovation in the country to make youth policy more mobile and “smart” (not surprising in the case of Estonia, is it? ;)

## WHAT WE NEED IS...

- More cross-sectorial cooperation and improved cooperation among various actors on problems concerning youth.
- Wider inclusion of youngsters in youth policy development processes.
- More recognition for “youth worker” profession.





## SOME OF OUR IDEAS BACK IN BREMEN

1. Training on how to use research to improve the quality of youth work (can also be an international training course).
2. Working on changing the attitudes and perception of youth workers as profession (organizing profession days for youth workers).
3. Positioning youth work development in the country in a more understandable way (creating a videos/webpage).
4. Coming up with some ideas to improve the inter-ministerial cooperation in the country.

## WHAT HAS HAPPENED SINCE?

Estonian National Youth Council recently started cooperation with Tallinn University in order to give practical input to youth work studies.

Estonian-Armenian cooperation has been initiated right after the seminar. The foreseen study visit was unfortunately cancelled due to security issues at given period, however a full 3-day programme including visits to all the main institutions, youth centers, National Youth Council was designed and will hopefully serve as a basis for another occasion to be planned.





# “MEHRABA” FROM TURKEY



## MOST IMPORTANT RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE FIELD

- The establishment of National Youth Council has been accelerated since the elections in November 2015.
- New draft Youth Policy Recommendation by Youth Organizations Forum of Turkey has been prepared.

## WE ARE CHALLENGED WITH...

- Youth work being mostly service-based. Right-based youth work approach is still less and few but it is improving by the initiatives of some youth NGO's. Today GOför is the most important body for right-based approach for youth policy and youth work.
- Youth policy not being inclusive. Approach to definition of young people is changing according to governmental political perspective.
- The approach of prevention of the problems regarding the rights and basic needs of young people, being envisaged through short-term measures, which is not realistic.
- Programmes not being designed to reach young people with fewer opportunities (social, economic obstacles, geographical obstacles, disability, educational difficulties, cultural differences, health problems).
- Youth work in the country mostly dominated by “youth exchange” projects. New Erasmus+ programme gives great opportunities to youth NGO's in Turkey, however project-based funding approach hinders creating sustainable and long-term solutions for youth.
- The fact of immigration of Syrian young people in the country still not being included in national youth policy.



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

Youth policy to be inclusive and participatory. Therefore, we should create free spaces for young people to participate in the policy making process and create possibilities for youth from diverse backgrounds and different socio-economic conditions to express themselves, define their needs and create strategies.

More incentives to be given to youth organizations in order to encourage them to focus on youth policy. Capacity building has to be considered on financial level but also on human resources area. Initiatives like GOFOR should be recognized as representative bodies of youth organizations by the policy makers.

## THINGS WE HAVE DONE SINCE WE LEFT BREMEN

- We have contacted and started to exchange ideas with Youth Organizations Forum.
- We try to make a session in the next General Assembly of Youth Organizations Forum where an expert from the colleagues of Youth Policy Seminar presents a best practice on shaping youth policy or creating a common ground for youth NGO's.
- We communicate regularly on ongoing developments in the field, we have informed our colleagues on the outputs of Youth Policy Seminar and tried to get their feedback.
- Because of the elections recently, there wasn't any opportunity to communicate with policy makers about this seminar



*Youth Organisations Forum*



## “ԲԱՐԵՎ” FROM ARMENIA



### WE HAVE MOVED FORWARD WITH SOME IMPORTANT ACTIONS LIKE...

- “Mapping of various understandings and types of youth work in Armenia” by Youth Studies Institute.
- “Understanding main challenges and opportunities of youth work in Armenia” published by a consortium of NGOs with the support of Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs.
- Series of steering and consultative meetings held by the Ministry to formulate the next steps for youth work recognition to be taken further in the country.

### WE ARE PUZZLED WITH THE FACT THAT...

- Most of the communication happening in youth policy field is not institutionalized and is very much person-based, there is a big need for a better communication system and information sharing platforms.
- National and local youth policy processes are not synchronised.
- There is a quite big lack of confidence towards policy-makers in general, which makes it very difficult to push participative processes forward for both sides.
- There is a big inconsistency on various levels: regardless clear national youth policy priorities there is a lack of follow-up and coordination. As there is not enough state support for youth policy and youth work development, especially youth work in the country is often supported by international organisations, who among themselves need serious coordination.

## WHAT WE URGENTLY NEED NOW IS...

- Clear political decision on assigning positions on local level responsible for youth.
- Capacity-building of the assigned specialists.
- Enhancing communication between policy-makers, researchers and practitioners in the field, as there is already enough data and experience present, now it's the time for the "chemistry" to happen.
- Creating permanent and concrete platforms for participative decision-making processes

## WE ARE ABOUT TO START...

- Creation of youth worker profile(s), competence framework and various training formats.
- Raise the awareness on the recent research projects among not only youth organisations but also other stakeholders responsible and dealing with youth.
- Preparation of a Youth Work Forum in Gyumri in the framework of "Youth Capital" annual state programme.



*Sociologists processing data in Youth Studies Intitute*



## TOP OF THE HEAD QUESTIONS FOR YOU

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

## SOME FACTS AND FIGURES TO KEEP IN MIND

### ARMENIA

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

### ESTONIA

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

### TURKEY

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



**MANY WARM GREETINGS AND SEE YOU SOON!**  
**SEMINAR TEAM**



# **PART E**

## **ISTANBUL**

**May 3-6, 2016**

**Programme overview**

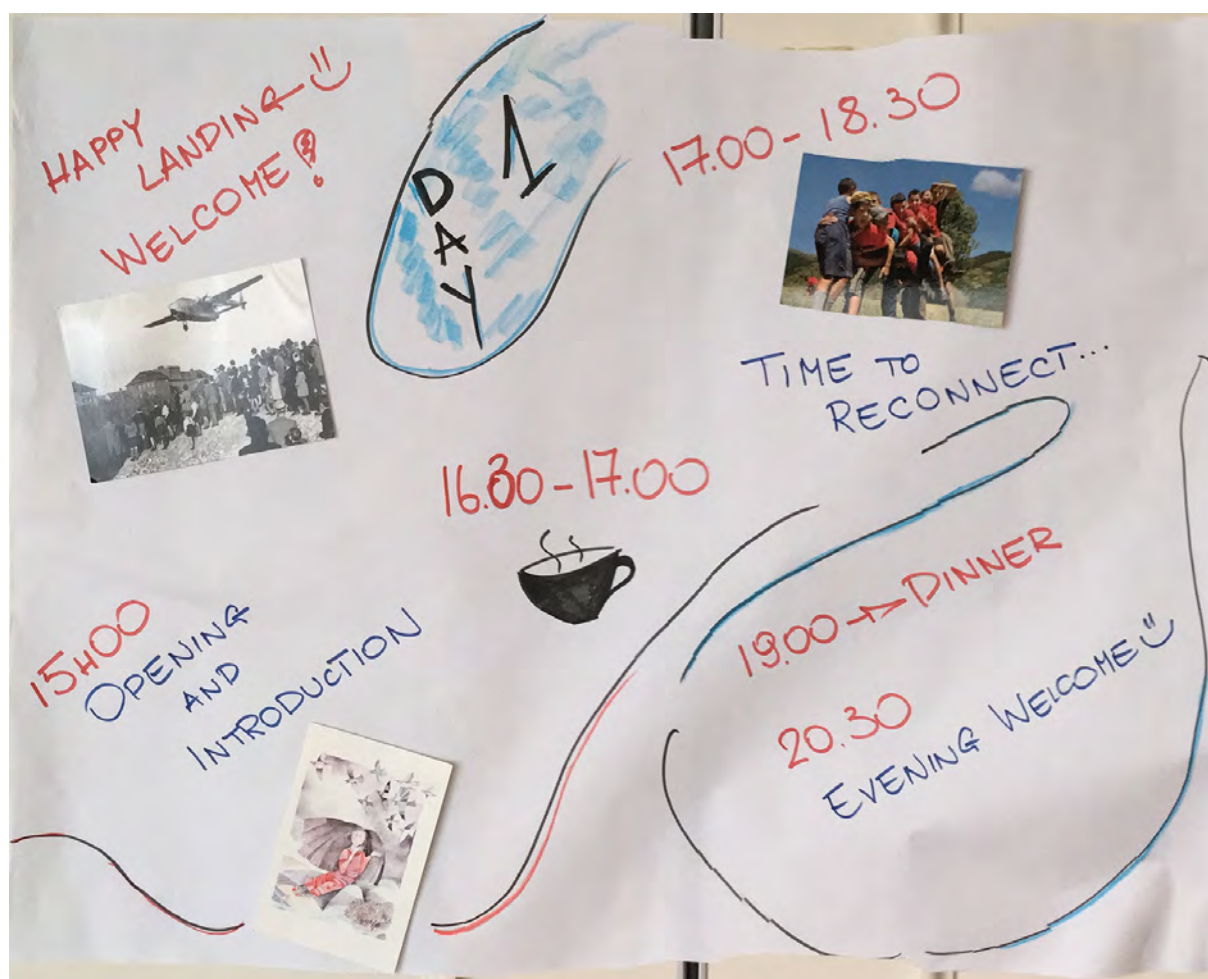
*and*

**Session outlines**

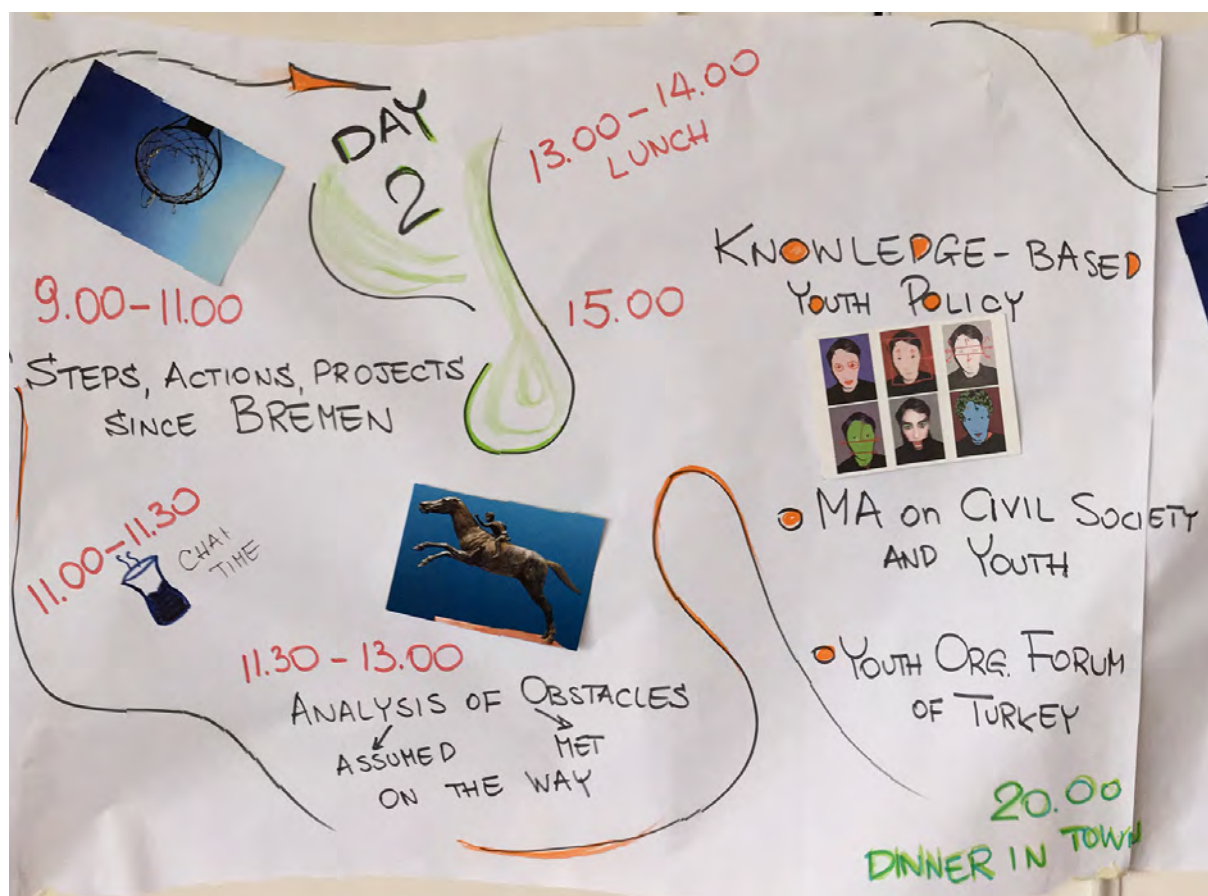
## E.1) DAILY PROGRAMME OF SECOND RESIDENTIAL SEMINAR (ISTANBUL, MAY 2016)

	TUESDAY, MAY 3 <sup>rd</sup>	WEDNESDAY, MAY 4 <sup>th</sup>	THURSDAY, MAY 5 <sup>th</sup> 4	FRIDAY, MAY 6 <sup>th</sup>
9.00 – 11.00	ARRIVALS	Steps, actions, projects implemented after Bremen	<b>Participatory youth policy</b> Introductory input by Nuala Connolly with a focus on e-participation	Further steps: networking, mutual project ideas, follow-up, support options
11.00 – 11.30		Coffee Break	Coffee Break	Coffee Break
11.30 – 13.00		Analysis of obstacles assumed and obstacles met + Sharing our recent changes on different levels	<i>Diving deeper into the topic:</i> workshops on examples of great and terrible e-participation projects with young people across Europe	Evaluation, Feedback and Idea Generation for possible next editions of the seminar
13.00 – 14.30		Lunch		
14.30 – 16.30	15:00 hrs: Welcome Opening Introduction	<b>Knowledge-based youth policy</b>  Study visit to Bilgi University:  1) "Youth Organizations Forum of Turkey (GoFor)" 2) MA on Civil Society & Youth Studies	<b>Cross-sectoral youth policy</b> Introductory input by Madga Nico with a focus on policy mechanisms	DEPARTURES
16.30 – 17.00	Coffee Break		Coffee Break	
17.00 – 18.30	Time to Reconnect		<i>Diving deeper into the topic:</i> workshops on making cross-sectoral policy mechanisms work in practice	
19.30	Dinner			
	Welcome Party	Dinner-Out	Farewell Event	

## E.2) Programme details: the session outlines



Title of the session	<b>Arriving and reconnecting</b>
Sequence in the training	<i>Seminar 2, Day 1, afternoon</i>
Duration of the session	3 working hours
Aim and rationale	The session aimed to help everyone arrive, settle in, get to know new participants and familiarise each other with the various youth policy and work contexts across Europe and the Mediterranean.
Objectives of the session	<p>The objectives of the session were to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- welcome familiar and new faces to the course</li> <li>- break the ice and create a safe and friendly atmosphere</li> <li>- learn about the various youth policy contexts present</li> </ul>
Session format & methodology	Ice breakers, duo interviews, plenary introductions
Programme of the session	<p>15:00 Welcoming, opening, round of introductions</p> <p>15:30 Intro to context, frame, programme, team and venue</p> <p>16:00 Introductions of and to the people in the room</p> <p>17:00 Reconnecting: Me, you and youth policy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- My ambitions regarding youth policy are ...</li> </ul> <p>18:30 Dinner</p>



Title of the session	<b>Learning from failures, learning from others</b>
Sequence in the training	<i>Seminar 2, Day 2, all day</i>
Duration of the session	6.5 working hours
Aim and rationale	The day aimed to analyse successes and failures of own youth policy actions, and to explore how knowledge-based youth policy works in Turkey.
Objectives of the session	<p>The objectives of the day were to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- learn from successes and failures of youth policy actions</li> <li>- learn from approaches to youth policy in Turkey</li> </ul>
Session format & methodology	Group discussions, plenary debates, field visits
Programme of the session	<p>09:00 What has happened since Bremen? What worked, and what didn't?</p> <p>11:30 What were reasons for progress made and failures suffered?</p> <p>→ see flipcharts on the next page</p> <p>15:00 The work of GoFor: Youth Organizations Forum of Turkey (GoFor)</p> <p>16:30 The M.A. Programme on Civil Society &amp; Youth Studies</p> <p>20:00 Dinner in town</p>



do not always demand that other policy areas consider youth issues - go there and show that we consider their policy issues too

embed youth work / policy in other political processes, such as child-friendly cities

cooperation between university and youth organisations

let others do the work

ability to take up key issues (employment) & connect to youth policy

job shadowing not only social work & similar

being truly participatory without tokenism

Gov-Schools cooperation when it works (Angie is a fan)

Cross borders

insist on topics nobody wants to engage with at first sight

do the hard work for the sake of establishing working relations

cross-institutional / partner cooperation: parliament, academia & civil society

work with young people

by organisations of local level

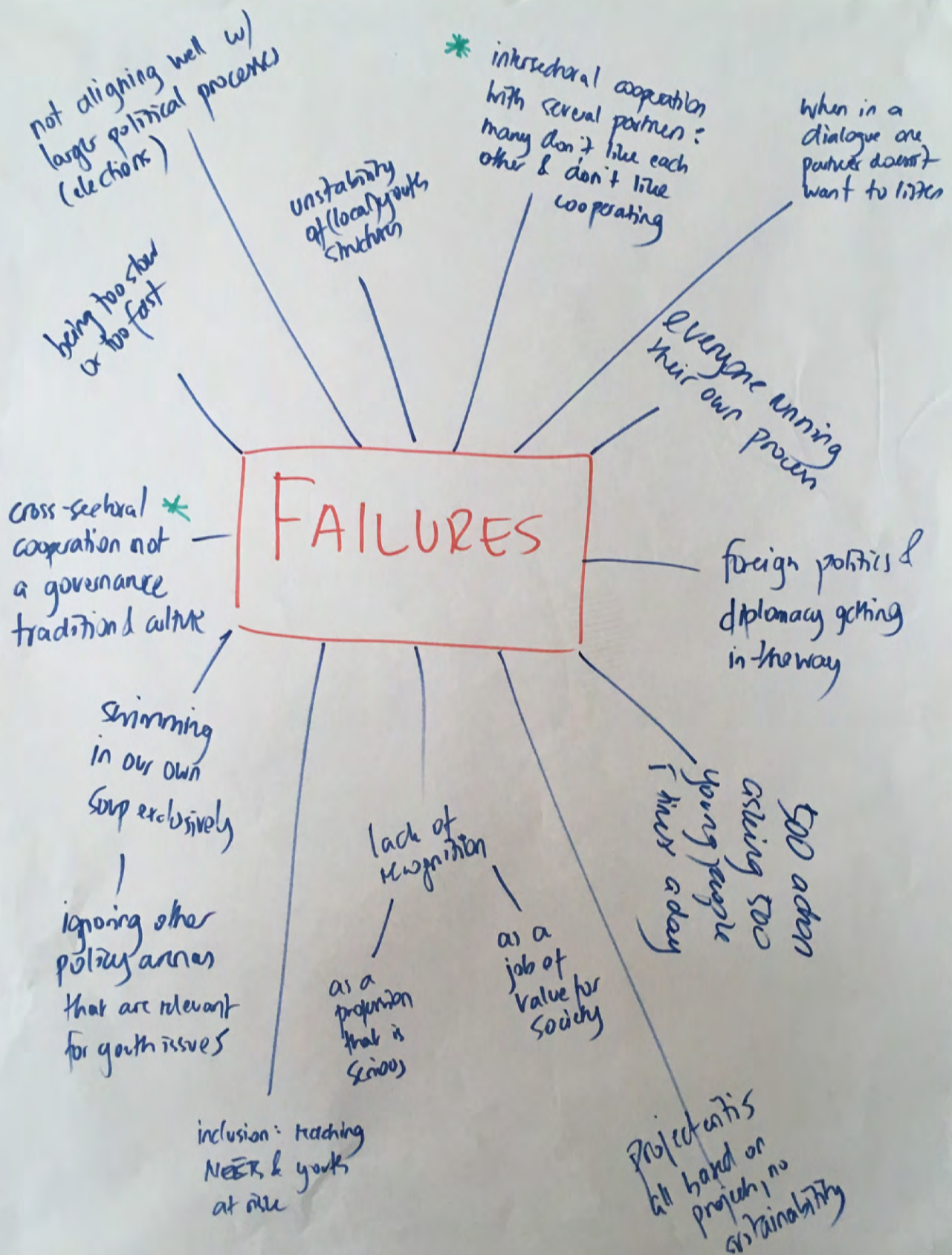
fun

getting the speed right even though it might mean to be very very slow

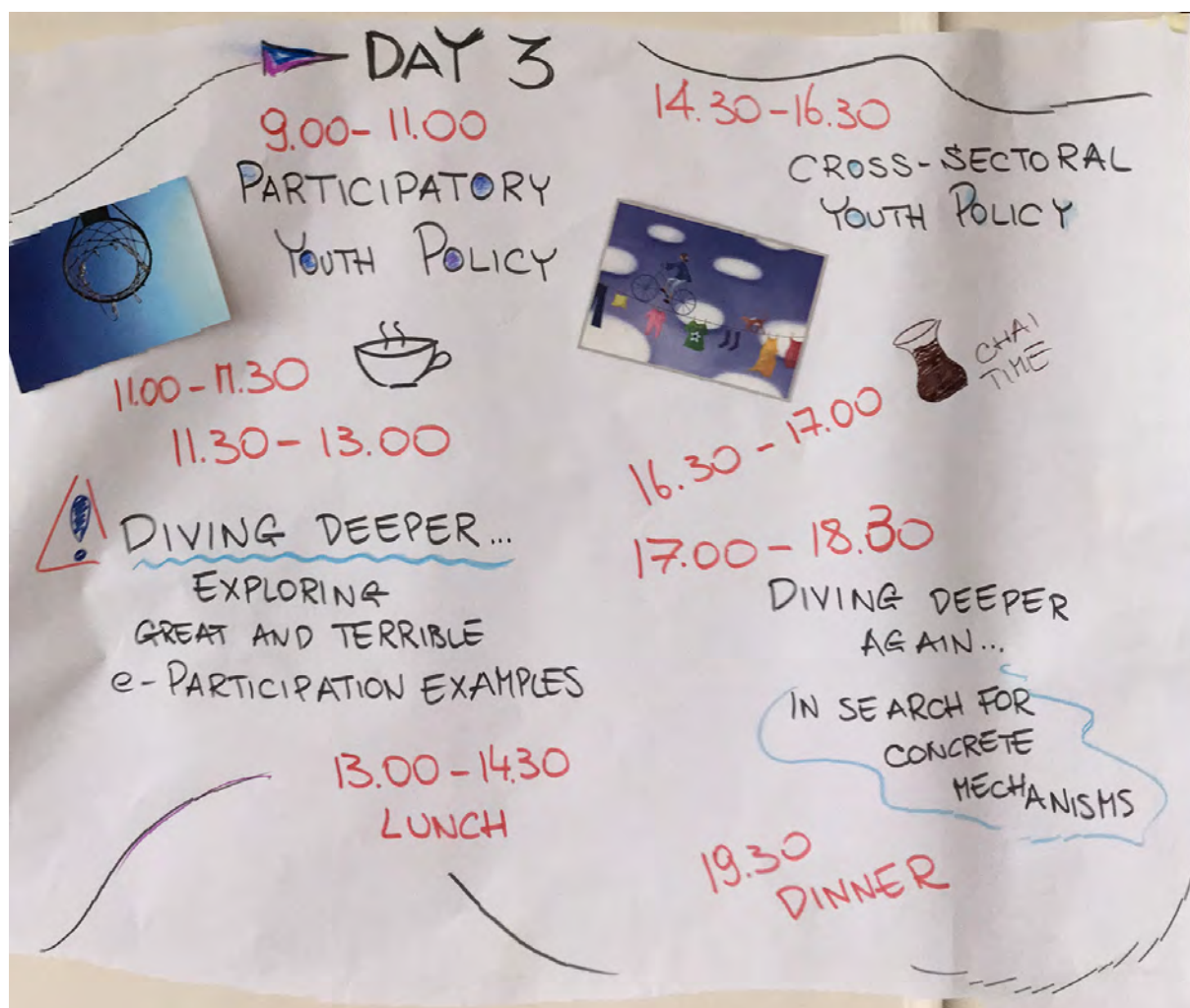
level of institutional support

integration & dialogue in existing societies

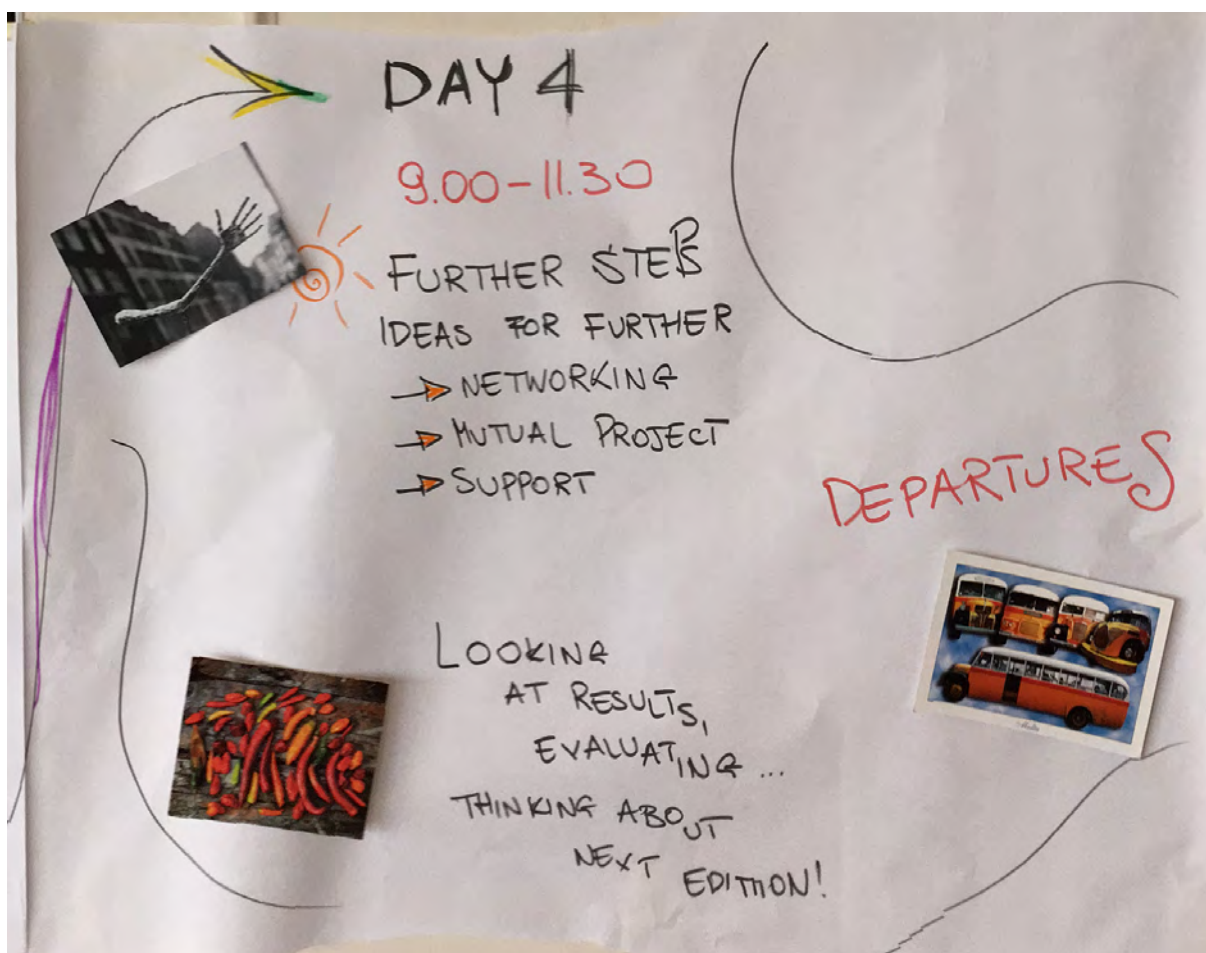
# PROGRESS







Title of the session	<b>Dicing deeper into and learning from theory</b>
Sequence in the training	<i>Seminar 2, Day 3, all day</i>
Duration of the session	6.5 working hours
Aim and rationale	The day aimed to explore knowledge-based and cross-sectoral youth policy in more depth and draw lessons for youth policy implementation.
Objectives of the session	<p>The objectives of the day were to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- learn from successes and failures of youth policy actions</li> <li>- learn from approaches to youth policy in Turkey</li> </ul>
Session format & methodology	Expert inputs, buzz groups, group discussions, plenary debates
Programme of the session	<p>09:00 Participatory youth policy- Introductory input by Nuala Connolly with a focus on e-participation. Discuss</p> <p>11:30 examples of great and terrible e-participation projects with young people across Europe</p> <p>14:30 Cross-sectoral youth policy. Introductory input by Madga Nico with a focus on policy mechanisms</p> <p>17:00 Making cross-sectoral policy mechanisms work in practice</p> <p>19:30 Dinner</p>



Title of the proposed session	<b>Taking youth policy home – strategies, plans, ideas and support</b>
Sequence in the training	Seminar 2, Day 4, morning
Duration of the session	2.5 working hours
Aim and rationale	The session aimed to motivate participants to continue working on youth policy projects, ideally in various constellations with one another.
Objectives of the session	<p>The objectives of the session were to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- plan concrete actions and activities</li> <li>- identify interested persons and partners</li> <li>- collect feedback on the seminar and course</li> </ul>
Session format & methodology	Brainstorming, group discussions, plenary debates
Programme of the session	<p>09:00 What could/should we work on in the coming months and years? What kind of support do we need and could we provide?</p> <p>→ see photographs on the next pages</p> <p>11:30 Feedback on the Istanbul seminar and the entire youth policy course</p> <p>13:00 Lunch and departures</p>



I would like to  
make sure that there will  
be a next edition of  
this seminar!

*Handwritten signature*

♥ Andreas

Maria

Stadja

Anahide

Hanz Artur

*Handwritten signature*

Claudius

Claudia  
Andreas

I would like to make sure  
that Montenegrin delegation  
has access to this course (next  
edition)  
and get support in developing their  
capacities. Stadja / Serbia & Montenegro :)

Anahide



I want to do the best we  
can with De Ambassade to support  
as well local Youth and their  
Organisations even now that Flanders  
don't set priorities anymore for municipalities  
concerning Youth Policy. I want to do it together with WJ  
and goal is to have better local Youth policy  
and YP in Flanders

I would like to  
organize training course for  
youth researchers in Armenia  
on modern research methods, on YP  
indicators.

Amg

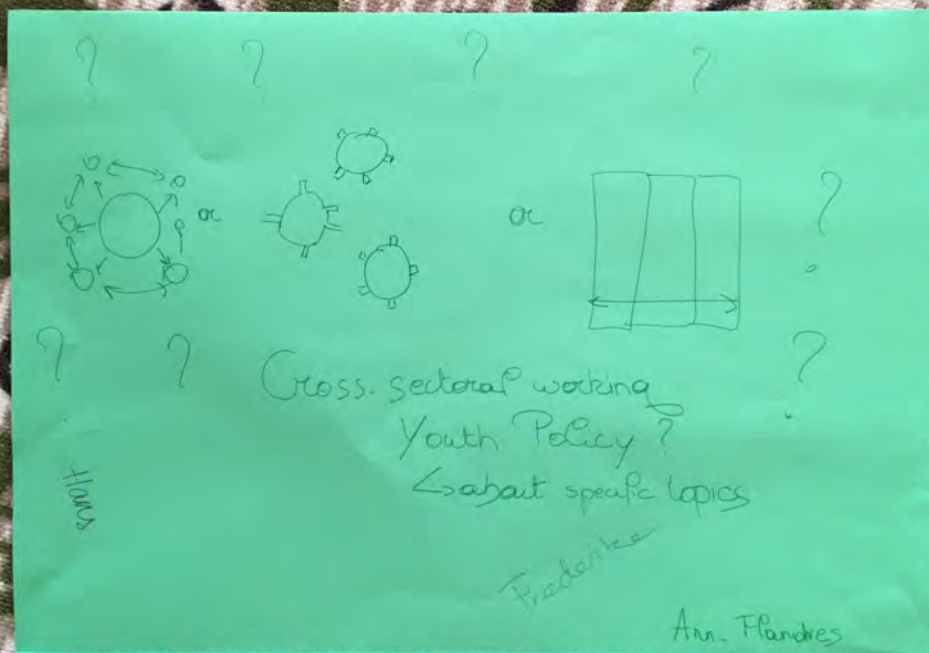
Frederike

Andree

gladys

MG (Armenia)





I would like to arrange  
a meeting with representatives  
of Ministry of Youth & Sport and GOFOR

We support you  
Ann. Hans  
Kau

After Turkey



I WOULD LIKE TO SEE THIS  
MODEL OF NEWSLETTER (COUNTRY  
PERSPECTIVE, CSO + MINISTRY INPUT AT  
THE SAME TIME) AS A PERMANENT  
THING.

Frederick  
my  
Clandine  
Amy  
Andrian  
Stadja  
Bojana  
Anahit  
[Signature]

CAPACITY BUILDING OF  
YOUTH WORKERS AND TRAINERS  
IN YOUTH WORK FIELD  
TO USE DIGITAL TOOLS  
FOR TRAINING (ON-LINE LEARNING  
TOOLS AND METHODOLOGY).  
COULD BE ON NATIONAL OR INTERNATIONAL  
LEVEL.

Artur  
Marta  
Ivana (SERBIA)



- TO REALISE FINALLY STUDY VISIT FOR YOUTH WORKERS FROM SERBIA, ARMENIA AND Turkey TO ESTONIA (planned in BREMEN) <sup>SERBIA</sup> <sub>Bojana</sub>
- TRAINING PROGRAM FOR YOUTH WORKERS IN CONTEXT OF DIGITAL LITERACY, IN ESTONIA <sup>Artur</sup> <sub>Nariva/EST</sub>
- INTERCITY YOUTH CONFERENCE - FLANDERS 2017 <sup>Artur</sup> <sub>Belgium</sub>
- DIGITAL DISEMINATION OF SEMINAR CONTENT TO CONNECTED STAKEHOLDERS <sup>Kaci/Belg</sup> <sub>Daniel GER</sub>

## Armenia - Artur

- \* Youth policy academy
  - policy makers
  - youth workers
- \* Seminar on youth work and youth worker
  - youth workers
  - youth leaders
- \* First Forum in Armenia on youth policy/work
  - policy makers
  - youth workers
  - youth



→ TO PUT EFFORT TO (RE)CONNECT NATIONAL AND EUROPEAN YOUTH STRATEGY IN GERMANY AND TO CREATE OPPORTUNITIES FOR BOTTOM-UP INITIATIVES

~~Ulrike~~ ULRIKE  
DANIEL

ELI youth strategy



Arthur

Ulrike

Frederike - Germany

Make a series of national trainings that culminates in a European Youth Policy Conference.

Andreas



Book chapter about  
this training / course/  
Seminar for Hagda's  
book

Wikipedia  
Task Force  
on youth issues

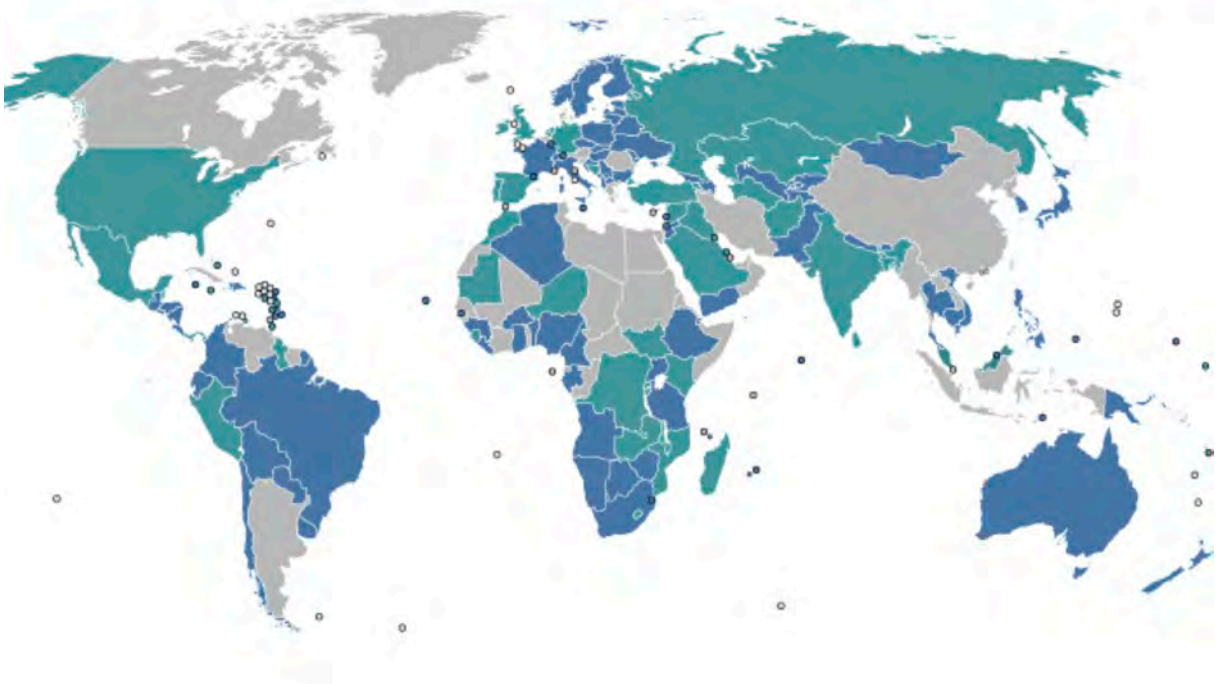
Andrea

# **PART F**

## **WHAT IS YOUTH POLICY?**

# WHAT IS YOUTH POLICY?

Of 198 countries, 99 (50%) have a current youth policy. A further 56 (28%) are revising their existing national youth policy or are, in a few cases, developing their very first national youth policy. 43 states (22%) have no national youth policy (yet).





NATIONAL  
YOUTH  
POLICY



PUBLIC  
POLICIES  
EFFECTING  
YOUTH

THERE **ALWAYS** IS A YOUTH POLICY.

EITHER  
**ON PURPOSE**  
OR  
**BY NEGLECT**

IT'S (Y)OUR CHOICE.

WHEN WE SAY YOUTH POLICY, WE MEAN:

ALL PUBLIC POLICIES WITH AN IMPACT  
ON YOUNG PEOPLE – WHETHER ON  
PURPOSE OR BY ACCIDENT – AND THE  
SYSTEMS THAT ARE NECESSARY TO  
DEVELOP, IMPLEMENT, MONITOR &  
ASSESS THESE PUBLIC POLICIES.

WHEN WE SAY YOUTH POLICY, WE MEAN:

SYSTEMS.

National  
Youth Policy

VISION

Long-term vision: 10-15 years

Youth  
Strategies

OBJECTIVES

Medium-term plan: 3-5 years

Action  
Plans

BUDGET

Short-term action: 1-2 years

National  
Youth Policy

VISION

Long-term vision: 10-15 years

Youth  
Strategies

OBJECTIVES

Medium-term plan: 3-5 years

Action  
Plans

BUDGET

Short-term action: 1-2 years

**YOUTH RIGHTS**



Long-term vision: 10-15 years



Medium-term plan: 3-5 years



Short-term action: 1-2 years



Long-term vision: 10-15 years



Medium-term plan: 3-5 years



Short-term action: 1-2 years



## Youth rights

Which rights should young people have?  
Which rights are consistently violated?  
Which rights need special protection?

## Youth needs

Which needs do young people have now?  
Which needs will young people have next?  
Which of these needs are neglected most?

## Youth wellbeing

What keeps young people from being well?  
Which policy effects hinder their wellbeing?  
Which neglected policy areas do the same?

Horizontal  
National  
Youth Policy

Specific  
sectoral  
youth  
policies

Authorities  
for Youth at all  
governmental  
levels

Cooperation  
between  
authorities  
at all levels

Consistent  
youth  
legislation

Measurable  
mid- and long-  
term aims and  
objectives

Budget for  
national and  
sectoral  
policies

Inter-  
ministerial  
cooperation &  
coordination

Education  
and training  
for youth  
professionals

Meaningful  
strategies for  
information &  
participation

Permanent  
infrastructure for  
research, policy  
and practice

Evaluation,  
quality control,  
accountability,  
feedback







### Youth rights

Which rights should young people have?  
Which rights are consistently violated?  
Which rights need special protection?

### Youth needs

Which needs do young people have now?  
Which needs will young people have next?  
Which of these needs are neglected most?

### Youth wellbeing

What keeps young people from being well?  
Which policy effects hinder their wellbeing?  
Which neglected policy areas do the same?

### Either concept

Where do they support youth policy systems?  
Where to they fail in youth policy systems?  
Where do they break youth policy systems?

# **PART G**

## **CROSS-SECTORAL YOUTH POLICY: TAKING ONE STEP BACK**

# Cross-Sectoral Youth Policy

## taking one step back



MAGDA NICO  
POOL OF EUROPEAN YOUTH RESEARCHERS  
CIES- UNIVERSITY INSTITUTE OF LISBON, PORTUGAL

MAY 5<sup>TH</sup> 2016  
ISTAMBUL

## Outline



1. Initial reflections
  - “Life is cross-sectoral”
  - What about the triangle?
2. Analysis of documentation
  - Goal, limits and limitations
  - Methodology
3. Analysis of the official discourses
4. Analysis of the (European) national practices
5. Conclusions



## Initial reflections

Life is cross sectoral

- **Things happen at the same time**

thus youth policies must take the different combinations of overlapping and accumulation of social conditions into account.

*(Overlapping and opposite)*

- **Things happen for conjoint reasons**

thus youth policies must be multidimensional and dynamic.

*(the accumulation of disadvantages)*

- **Things happen really fast**

thus cross-sectoral youth policy is pressing.

*(the demographically dense period of life)*

## Initial reflections

Life is cross sectoral

Pluralization of the life course

Differentiation of the life course

Prolongation of the life course

## Initial reflections

### Life is cross sectoral

#### *Luís, life in shifts*

*Luís is the first in his generation (of cousins) **who did not go on to higher education.***

*His choice of a professional course was received with some **disappointment** by his parents and family.*

*Even greater was the concern at his **decision to become a father at 24.** As Luís said, "with everything against him", he still wanted to be a father at that point in his life.*

*In order to attain that, he has had to make **sacrifices.** For the first two years of his daughter's life, he worked day and night shifts in a part time job, alternating with those of his partner, just to guarantee that one of them was with their child at all times.*

*In the statistics, however, Luís is just a part-time worker.*

## Initial reflections

### Life is cross sectoral

#### *Ana, the eternal bride*

*From a **working class background**, Ana is suffering from hyper-reflexivity regarding her own life and from the **incapacity to choose between lose-lose situations.***

*Ana wants to leave her job (in her words, a very stressful one, marked by unpleasant hierarchical relations). Besides this professional goal, she wants to get married and pregnant.*

*Knowing that **one decision will exclude the other**, she feels incapable of making a choice and is becoming more and more anxious, to the point that the only decision she seems able to make is to return to psychotherapy.*

## Initial reflections tensions and paradoxes

- **Never ending debate of structure and agency**

*Sociologist and their belief in social structure effect **ON** young people's lives*

**vs.** *youth workers and the belief in “activation” and “empowerment” **OF** young people*

- **The biases of the terminology**

*a formal, legally framed, cooperation*

**vs.** *youth workers or workers in the youth sector to be “policy change makers” themselves*

## Analysis of Documentation goal and limitations

- **Goal:** to contribute to overcome the lack of knowledge of the gaps and overlaps of cross-sectoral youth policy all over Europe, by providing an overview of existing information on cross-sectoral policy cooperation based on materials produced in the context of EU cooperation, the work from the Council of Europe, specific countries with concrete experiences in cross-sectoral cooperation.

- **Context:** This document was commissioned by the partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the field of youth in the framework of its work program 2014.

- **Publications:**

Nico, Magda (2014), *Life is Cross-sectorial, why wouldn't youth policy be?*, Youth Partnership, available online.

Nico, Magda (forthcoming 2015), *From holistic needs to cross-sectoral measures, Perspectives on Youth #3*.



## Analysis of Documentation

### goal and limitations

- The (relatively **short**) window of observation
- The **indirect** access to the national youth policy practices and intentions
- The **missing** information on the context of production of the documents and reviews
- The lack of geographical and diachronical **comparability**

## Analysis of Documentation

### methodology

**Table 1. The documents analyzed**

GOAL	SCOPE	POLICY	POLICY REVIEW	DATA REPORTS
Analysis of formal importance	International	<b>20</b>		
	European	<b>11</b>		
Analysis of operationalization	National		<b>21</b>	
Analysis of research structures	National			<b>17</b>

## Analysis of Documentation methodology

Table 1. The documents analyzed

GOAL	SCOPE	POLICY	POLICY REVIEW	DATA REPORTS
Analysis of formal importance	International	20		
	European	11		
Analysis of operationalization	National		21	
Analysis of research structures	National			X

## Cross-sectoral youth policy *Taken for granted?*

- Important and popular concept
- Less controversial than other principles that underlie youth policy design
- The idea that the lives of (young) people are cross-sectoral is cross-sectoral

# **PART H**

## **KEY THOUGHTS ON YOUTH POLICY**

## Key thoughts on youth policy across publications

Most of the youth publications include the following aspects, which also mark the largely unresolved dilemmas of the thinking as much as the practice of youth policy.

### (1) Definition of youth vs definition of youth policy

Both the definitions of youth policy, and the definitions of youth as its target group, are not consistent across the various publications – not within Europe, and not beyond. These are three randomly picked examples to illustrate the dilemma:

“The purpose of a youth policy is to create conditions for learning, opportunity and experience which ensure and enable young people to develop the knowledge, skills and competences to be actors of democracy and to integrate into society.”

– European Framework of Youth Policy, 2005

“A national youth policy is a government’s commitment and practice towards ensuring good living conditions and opportunities for the young population of a country.”

– Youth Policy Manual, 2009

“Youth policy is a complex and multi-layered process that includes a series of sequential phases that can be summarised as: agenda setting; policy formulation; decision-making; policy implementation; and policy evaluation.”

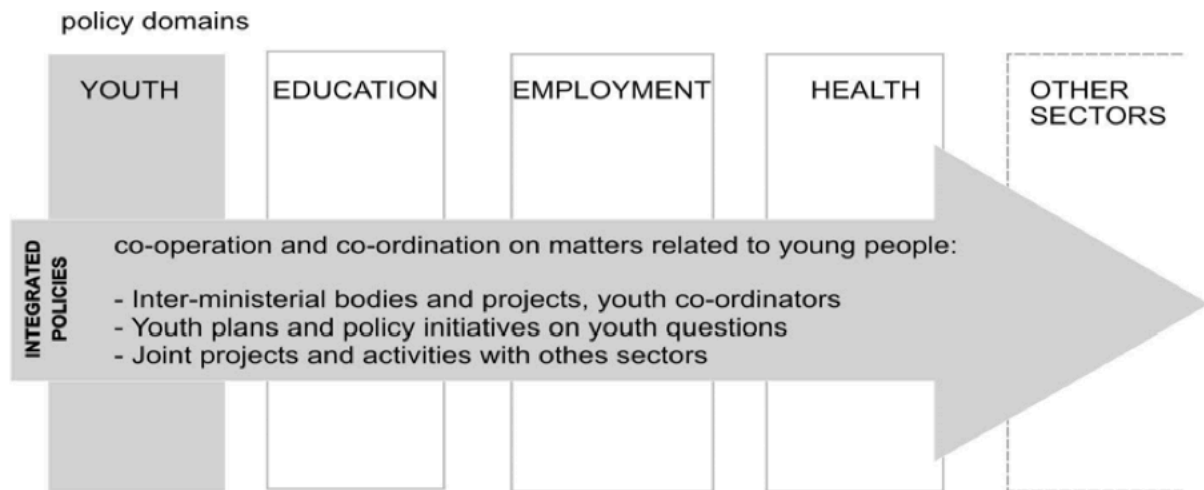
– Understanding Policy Development and Implementation for Young People, 2012

**To note:** it is currently practically impossible for anyone willing to develop or implement a youth policy to find a widely used and accepted definition.

### (2) Transversal policies on youth vs distinct youth policy

There is widespread agreement on youth being a transversal issue that cuts across many policy areas but which is, at the same time, in need of its own distinct policy. There is, however, no agreement on how this could work, and could work well, in practice. Little attention is being paid to an underpinning dilemma, namely the relatively unimportant role of youth policy in governance.

The image on the following page illustrates one approach to the transversality of youth policy and the necessity to combine it with a separate youth policy:



– European Framework of Youth Policy, 2005

**To note:** there is not enough practically relevant guidance on how to make an integrated youth policy more than just a compelling concept.

### (3) National vs international vs local youth policy frameworks

Most publications present a framework for developing a youth policy. Sometimes these frameworks are thematic, asking which policy areas must be covered, sometimes structural, asking which provisions need to be in place for policy to work. There is a dwelling conflict between evidence-based and rights-based approaches to youth policy formulation and implementation.

**To note:** there is a lack of consistency across frameworks and an unresolved divergence between advocates of youth rights and youth knowledge.

### (4) Youth policy cycles vs youth policy frameworks

Depending on the traditions and backgrounds of writers, publications tend to either (a) use one of various models of the policy cycle as a starting point and develop youth policy as an explicit policy cycle, or (b) use a—generally validated but oftentimes incomparable—set of targets and aims for what youth policy should achieve (for whom).

**To note:** some models focus on how youth policy should function, others on what it should achieve – and those two are rarely brought together.

(5) Indicators for a functioning youth policy vs a good youth policy framework

Starting from Peter Lauritzen's observation on youth policy structures in Europe in 1993, various sets of indicators have been developed over time. Again to illustrate, here are two of the various indicator sets:

- There needs to be legislation concerning young people;
- There need to be financial resources within the state budget;
- There must be a non-governmental infrastructure;
- There should be some voluntary and professional training structure;
- There needs to be independent research into youth matters;
- There need to be advisory bodies to the government;
- There should be a communication network at national, regional and local level between authorities, youth movements and agencies;
- Opportunities for innovation and development should be provided.

– Youth policy structures in Europe, 1993

- There needs to be a clearly defined government authority on youth;
- There needs to be a clearly defined target group;
- There needs to be a concrete and transparent strategy;
- There needs to be a knowledge-based policy;
- There needs to be an understanding of young people as a resource;
- There needs to be the promotion of youth participation;
- There needs to be a cross-sectoral, integrated approach;
- There needs to be inter-ministerial co-operation;
- There needs to be a separate budget;
- There needs to be established links between spatial levels;
- There needs to be a link to European and international practices.

– Youth Policy Manual, 2009

**To note:** there are many lists of indicators, with some overlaps as well as plenty of differences – some are fine nuances, others more fundamental.

# **PART I**

## **NEWSLETTER N° 3**





# 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.



## 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*

## 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)  
[HTTP://WWW.YOUTHPOLICY.ORG/FACTSHEETS/COUNTRY/SERBIA/](http://WWW.YOUTHPOLICY.ORG/FACTSHEETS/COUNTRY/SERBIA/)



**MANY WARM MORNING GREETINGS!**  
**YOUR SEMINAR TEAM**