

# A historic farewell, gadgets and banners, and a thought for the future

By Mark E. Taylor

*"Marker" is a regular column in Coyote, hoping to encourage debate, questions and a certain regard. With the hope that this will be a foundation for rhyme or reason...*



## Bye bye and hello, Hanjo

*Karin Lopatta-Loibl, Youth Policy Unit of the Commission thanks Hanjo at a recent symposium*

He's going to leave us and he'll be back in different guises over the next years, I'm sure. After nearly 12 years in the Partnership, Hanjo Schild is retiring. Embodying the Partnership between the Council of Europe and the European Commission required a ton of dedication and inspiration. Together with colleagues, Hanjo has been a moving force in the drive for recognition of (international) youth work. One of the most stimulating seminars I ever experienced was in a favourite place in Blankenberge, Belgium which was the start of a great series of reflection, investigation, analysis and thoughts for the future. Now in its fifth volume, *The History of Youth Work in Europe* series does a wonderful job of synthesising the different strands which make up youth work today.

*Have a look at the covers of those books... Where is Hanjo?*



## Your favourite gadget

On return from a training course in the olden days, I would open my luggage and one of the first things to pop out would cause a familiar reaction from members of my family: "Ah! What the world needs now! Another t-shirt to add to Mark's collection!" Yes, I have kept them. Then came anti-stress balls, USB sticks, bags-bags-and-more-bags, note books with sticky notes... My favourites at the moment?



Multi-adaptor plug from the Italian Erasmus+ National Agency



A magical musical instrument (with optional coloured finger nail) used for empowering learners in an increasing number of activities

And speaking of PR materials...

## Brexit = Trexit?

Note: **"Brexit"** is shorthand for "Britain leaves the EU"; **"Trexit"** could mean "trainers leave".

On the 23rd of June I took my parents to vote in the UK referendum on whether to leave the EU (I was not allowed to vote, having lived outside the country for more than 15 years). Like millions of others I awoke the next day and could not believe my eyes or ears. The consequences for society, for Europe and beyond are still very difficult to estimate. In the micro cosmos of European non-formal education it looks like our ambiguity tolerance will be tested pretty severely over the next few years. Zillions of questions pop up immediately! On a purely practical level, what does this mean for trainers and young people from Britain in the future? Will they be able to participate in EU projects? What about UK contributions to research, to pedagogical approaches, to our favourite "European Citizenship"? Much will have to be negotiated at political levels. AND when a system is shaken up to such an extent there are many opportunities to work on these issues – we should take up the responsibility also.

## And finally

Thanks to those who write or give informal feedback. Next time we consider the "pataphysics of will there be a next time"...

## Sounds, words, inspirations

Genesis Breyer P-Orridge (2016), Try to altar everything. (See: <http://rubinmuseum.org/events/exhibitions/genesis-breyer-p-orridge> - accessed 19.7.16)

Slim Harpo, *The Excello Singles Anthology*, HIP-O Records

The Dead Weather (2015), *I feel love every million miles*, Third Man Records

## Banner gone to heaven?

*Билјана Василевска Трајкоска in front of symposium banner.*

Have you noticed the marked increase of banners, roll-ups, posters, etc., etc. on photos of international youth work activities – everything from an info day, to a youth exchange, to a training course, to a conference? Naturally with prominent place given to all sponsors. Nothing new of course, it just seems that we are getting very "professional" these days. I just wonder what happens to all of these PR materials AFTER an event? Are they recycled? Is there a "banner heaven" somewhere?



Photo by Szilvi Pető

