

**Professional Identity of Hungarian youth
workers** – first findings *of an empirical research*

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Research aims

The research aims to investigate the characteristics of professional identity among practitioners who work with young people.

Who are they? What values do they base their practice on?
What is their motivation to work with young people? How do they identify themselves?

Research design

- Online survey (YP: 15–29 yo.)
- 34 questions (mainly close-ended types, 4-point Likert)
 - Values and principles
 - Motivation
 - Visibility and recognition
 - Socio-demographic
- Voluntary response sampling (N:330)
- Outreach campaign to promote the survey

First results in a nutshell

- Responses mainly from the capital and (main) urban areas.
- 42% of the respondents have a professional education related to youth work (social work, pedagogy, TE, etc.).
- The average age is 40. The average time spent in youth work is 10 years.

First results in a nutshell

- 55% of the respondents are working in the NGO sector.
- 21% of them are only active in youth work as volunteers.
- 75% of them get paid.

56% of the respondents think that the primary focus of youth work is to help young people in finding solutions to the problems they face with.

Primary focus

**24% of the respondents
think youth work is a known
profession.**

Low visibility (recognition)

51% of the respondents are following the international developments

Internationalisation

The more years spent in the field are related to the feeling of more preparedness.

Continuous professional development

**The place where you
live/work relates to the
importance of critical
thinking as the value you
base your work on.**

Critical thinking

Budapest: 3,5
County capitals: 3,5
Towns: 3,2
Villages: 3,1

(1) not at all (4) completely

Buzz groups

- What challenges you could identify regarding the professional identity of youth workers?
- Becoming a youth worker can have different pathways. *What would you focus on researching professional identity?*

Follow-up

- Focus groups with youth work practitioners
- Further exploration of how practitioners conceptualize their profession: What distinguish youth work practice from other professional activities targeting young people.

Thank you for your attention!

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