

Angles and Standpoints

Youth 'perspective' and youth 'mainstreaming'

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Main Conclusions

- SORTING THE CONCEPTS
- A CONTINUUM OF CHALLENGES
- COMPETING 'PERSPECTIVES'
- WIDER (YOUTH) POLICY BEYOND THE YOUTH SECTOR

CONCEPTUAL EVOLUTION

- Youth Rights
- Social Justice
- Generational fairness
- Polycrisis affecting youth in Europe? Inequalities and precarity
- Wraparound initiatives - 'input from' and 'impact on'
- Strengthening 'perspective'; embedding 'mainstreaming'
- Education, empowerment and capacity building

PARTICIPATION–PERSPECTIVE(S)-MAINSTREAMING

- Strengthening participation – meaningful?
- Integration of youth perspectives across the policy field?
- Is participation a principle and prerequisite for youth mainstreaming?
Or is it a necessary but not sufficient precondition?
- Enabling and Ensuring youth consultation and engagement
- Enabling voice
- Ensuring attention to impact (perhaps unforeseen consequences)

BUT.....?

- Different methodologies produce different perspectives - how are these to be reconciled?
- Where are the distinctions with 'participation plus'?
- What about other approaches?
 - Youth checks and tests – explore, assess, mitigate, amend
 - Young professionals in their professional worlds (categorical representation)
 - Youth research
 - Litigation (cf climate activism / and not just youth!)

BEYOND THE YOUTH SECTOR?

- The push of youth participation / perspective. Yes
- The pull of youth perspective / mainstreaming. Maybe not
- Can the youth sector be enlisted for the advocacy and organisation of youth mainstreaming? Will anybody listen?
- Recurrent structural challenges threaten sustainable anchoring
 - Political volatility
 - Institutional anchoring

CONCLUSIONS

- We should pay close attention to the lessons from **gender mainstreaming** at a European level (cf. a tribute to Teresa Rees)
- We must avoid getting tangled up in rhetorical pleasantries and **weasel words** - we currently remain very tied to youth participation (plus)
- We must remain alert to **intersectional questions** – youth intersects with other critical dimensions of risk, exclusion, disadvantage, discrimination and more
- This is all **work in progress** and we should move forward cautiously
- There is a **spectrum of issues**, arguments, rabbit holes and possibilities