



Introduction

In the last 20 years projects have taken a central role in youth work and can be considered today as a tool for social change, a cornerstone to community development and to international youth work or even as a tool to build and/or strengthen civil society. As a consequence, the management of projects has become a necessary skill for youth organisations and a recurrent topic for youth work training.

Project management requires a wide variety of skills from political/social analysis to communication skills, from people to resources management skills, from fundraising skills to evaluation techniques etc... Obviously, this T-Kit could not exhaustively deal with all these issues and the authors have chosen to address the main elements relevant for international youth projects. Written by experienced youth work trainers at the international level, this T-Kit is largely inspired from 'project management' training events run in the context of international youth work and draws on concrete training examples.

This T-Kit should not be seen as a recipe on 'how to run a project' but rather as a proposal of a framework that provides the project manager with a concrete 'step-by-step' approach, including hints and guidelines for monitoring a project.

The T-Kit has been produced for those who want to develop projects and who are able to refer to their own experiences and own project. It is for:

- project managers in charge of developing a project,

- trainers helping participants to develop their own projects.

This T-Kit is divided into 4 main chapters moving from general reflections on the value of projects to a very concrete step-by-step development of a project. The four sections can be read independently but are of course interconnected.

Chapter 1 is a general reflection on the role of projects in the development of international youth work and the evolution of the value of projects.

Chapter 2 provides a clarification of what is understood by 'project management' in a youth work context as well as presenting a variety of approaches and models of project development.

Chapter 3 proposes a framework to guide the development of youth work projects followed by 'step-by-step' explanations. This chapter includes practical advice and concrete suggestions for trainers using project development as a training tool. In order to help you with the transfer to practice, this chapter includes an example of a project applying the step-by-step project development explanations.

Chapter 4 presents some thoughts on the European dimension of projects.

We hope you will enjoy reading and applying the methods to your own projects. We look forward to receiving feedback from your own experiences of using this T-Kit.