

Welcome to Coyote !

Winter has come and the days are slowly getting colder and more cloudy, in Central and Northern Europe at least, that is. Time again for the birds to fly South and for Coyote to come out. And maybe time again – if you are not on a train or plane rushing to the next European youth work training course somewhere in Europe - to sit back in a comfortable chair, with a warm cup of coffee or tea, and let your mind sink into the world – and worlds - of training and youth work.

During the period of the preparation of this issue, the Coyote editorial team had to say good-bye to one of its founding members, Leen Laconte, who represented the angle of the National Agencies for Youth in the team and is conducting the interviews for Coyote Meets Trainers. Leen left for new professional opportunities. Thank you very much, Leen, and good luck for the future! Bernard Abrignani has taken over her place. A warm welcome to our new Coyote editorial team member! (For more details about the team members, please have a look at the Notes about the Contributors.)

We have been very happy to see that more and more people have contacted us with great ideas for articles. Actually, we have received more articles during the last months than we are able to publish in this issue. We decided to make a selection, which considers, to some extent at least, the diversity of interests of our authors and readers, but which reflects as well some of the priorities for European youth worker training at the level of the European institutions. Both can go hand in hand, we hope.

Non-formal education is one of these priorities. In this issue you will find several articles expressing a major concern with the purpose and value of non-formal education through youth work experiences in today's society, and with regard to professional career perspectives. The subject has been taken up from different angles. Many volunteers participate in voluntary service projects, according to Luis Amorim, because this experience offers them a possibility for personal development while helping to develop the community in which they work. From her personal experience, Hrönn Pétursdóttir knows that certain qualifications acquired through youth work experiences, voluntary service or others, are increasingly valued by employers. So why not value them also in formal education? Nol Reverda describes a concrete example of good practice in higher education in the field of comparative social studies. Last but not least, Coyote travelled to London to meet Ginny Lun, who has carried out an impressive project to increase the self-confidence and employability of long-term unemployed young people.

The scope of training in European youth work is wide. What are, for instance, the challenges for Euro-Mediterranean co-operation? What is the potential for using the internet in youth work? Can training help new executives or staff to continue and renew the work of a youth organisation? And how do you cope with the eternal frustration that there is always too little time to deal with all the really, really important issues within a training course? Curious?

Enjoy your reading!

Sonja Mitter
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