

## **Youth Partnership**

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Partnership between the European Commission  
and the Council of Europe in the field of youth



# **Workshop**

# **Youth participation and**

# **Social media**

**2-4 July 2013, Hammamet, Tunisia**

**Robert Thomson**

**Pool of European Youth Researchers**

# Interregional seminar of youth research experts

- Rabat, 8-10 April 2013
- **The state of play** – status of youth research in the European and Arab regions
- Algeria: UNICEF | Belgium: Partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the field of youth | Egypt: League of Arab States | France: University of Reims, Council of Europe – Office of the Director General of Programmes Council of Europe - Youth Department | Libya :Centre for Sustainable Development Research | Montenegro: National Youth Steering Committee | Morocco: University Mohamed V Faculté des Sciences Juridiques, Economiques et Sociales, Souissi | UNESCO – Multi-country office, Office of the Council of Europe in Morocco | Spain: Institut d'Études Sociales Avancées | Sweden: University of Örebro | Switzerland: Rapporteur | Tunisia: University of Sfax, Tunisia Youth Policy Review team, Center of Arab Women for Training and Research University of Tunis Observatoire National de la Jeunesse | Turkey: Ministry of Youth and Sport | Ukraine

# State of young people in two regions

- **Democratic youth participation**, concepts, status, realities challenges
- Example from Morocco: *Young people and sexuality*, by Prof. **Abdessamad Dialmy**, Université Mohamed V (Morocco)
- From Europe: Ways in which young people in Scandinavia deal with political and civic affairs, by Prof. **Erik Amnå**, Örebro University (Sweden)

# State of young people (2)

- Forms of participation, obstacles, challenges and perspectives
- Young women and participation (Tunisia)
- Young migrants in Europe
- Cooperation on youth research (interregional international)
- How to communicate research results and impact on national youth policies

# Problematic Internet use

- Problematic internet use symptoms can be identified in a clinical setting. Risk factors associated with PIU symptoms & health interventions are identified
- PIU fits in with existing clinical paradigms for addictive behaviors
- Risk factors, symptoms and negative health outcomes for PIU
- Approaches to screen and intervene among youth at risk for PIU

# Problematic Internet use (2)

- Research focuses on ways in which technology can be used in improving adolescent health.
- Social networking web sites used to investigate how adolescents portray health risk behaviors, sexual activity, substance use, on these web sites.
- Current research includes evaluating validity of online disclosures by adolescents, impact of disclosures on other adolescents who view them, and how these disclosures may be used to improve adolescent health)

# Suicidality and sexual orientation

- Findings from three probability surveys among men in Switzerland
- Jen Wang (\*), Michael Häusermann, Hans Wydler, Meichun Mohler-Kuo, Mitchell G. Weiss
- (\*) Institute for Social and Preventive Medicine, University of Zurich, Hirschengraben 84, CH-8001 Zurich, Switzerland

# Abstract

- Few population-based surveys in Europe have examined the link between suicidality and sexual orientation. The objective of this study was to assess the prevalences of and risk for suicidality by sexual orientation, especially among adolescent and young adult men.
- Data came from three probability-based surveys in Switzerland from 2002: 1) Geneva Gay Men's Health Survey (GGMHS) with 571 gay/bisexual men, 2) Swiss Multicenter Adolescent Survey on Health (SMASH) with 7,428 16e20 year olds, and 3) Swiss Recruit Survey (ch-x) with 22,415 new recruits. In GGMHS, suicidal ideation (12 months/lifetime) was reported by 22%/55%, suicide plans 12%/38%, and suicide attempts 4%/19%.
- While lifetime prevalences and ratios are similar across age groups, men under 25 years reported the highest 12-month prevalences for suicidal ideation (35.4%) and suicide attempts (11.5%) and the lowest attempt ratios (1:1.5 for attempt to plan and 1:3.1 for attempt to ideation). The lifetime prevalence of suicide attempts among homo/bisexual men aged 16e20 years varies from 5.1% in ch-x to 14.1% in SMASH to 22.0% in GGMHS. Compared to their heterosexual counterparts, significantly more homo/bisexual men reported 12-month suicidal ideation, plans, and attempts (OR  $\frac{1}{4}$  2.09e2.26) and lifetime suicidal ideation (OR  $\frac{1}{4}$  2.15) and suicide attempts (OR  $\frac{1}{4}$  4.68e5.36). Prevalences and ratios vary among gay men by age and among young men by both sexual orientation and study population. Lifetime prevalences and ratios of non-fatal suicidal behaviors appear constant across age groups as is the increased risk of suicidality among young homo/bisexual men.