



Fachhochschule Köln
Cologne University of Applied Sciences



Mobility Spaces – Learning Spaces

European Platform on Learning Mobility



Linking Youth Work and Learning Mobility - The Research Perspective

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Structure



- **1. Youth Work and Learning Mobility:
Some Basic Terms and Ideas**
 - 1.1 Terminology
 - 1.2 International Youth Work in Germany
 - 1.3 Stages of Mobility – a model

- **2. Principles of International Youth Work**

- **3. Research on effects of International Youth Work**

- **4. Perspectives**



1.1 Terminology

- „International Youth Work“:
 - more specific meaning
 - broder meaning
- Settings of international youth work
 - group exchange or youth encounters
 - volunteer work
 - exchange of professionals
- bi-, tri- and multilateral activities

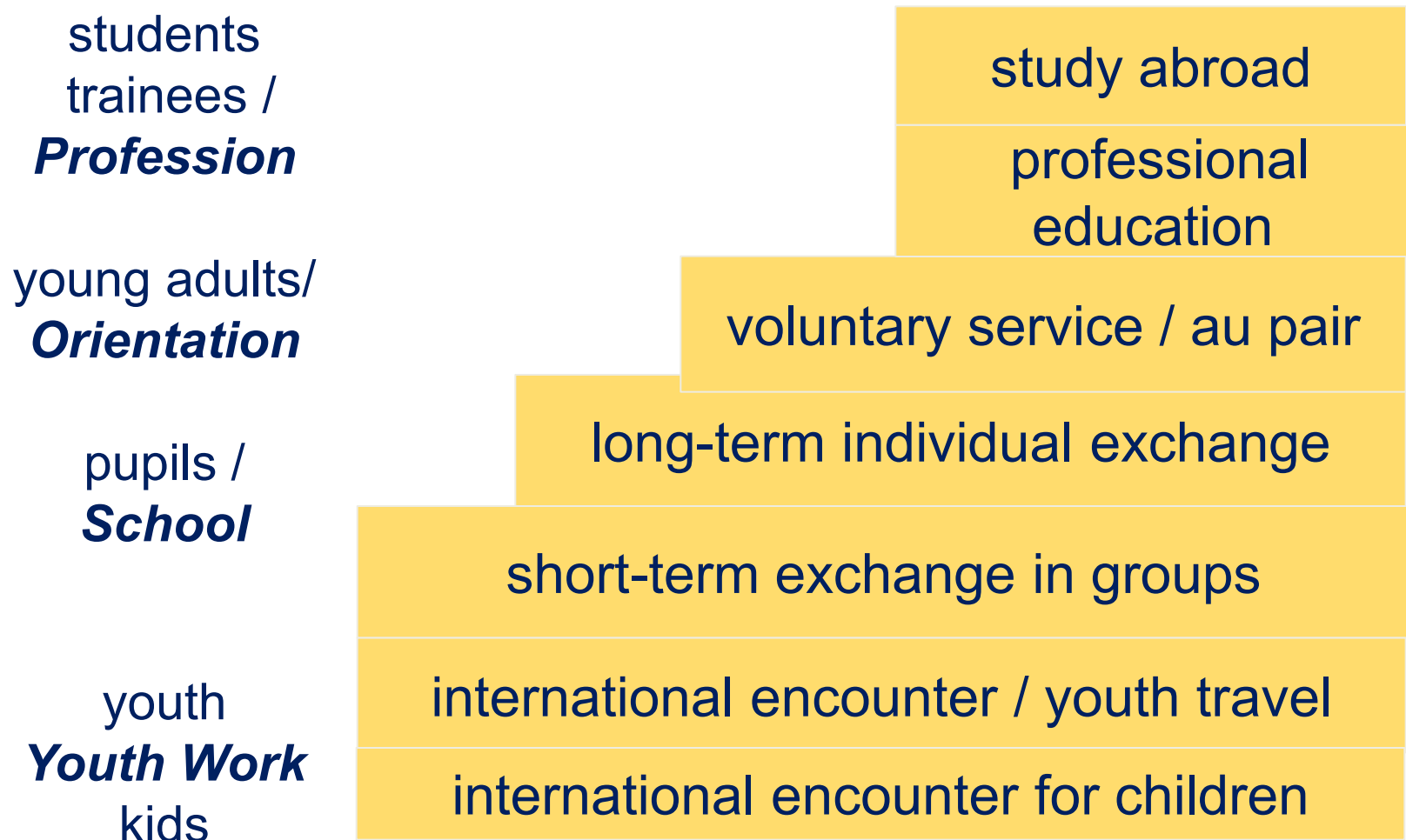


1.2 Int. Youth Work in Germany

- Germany as a social democracy
- International Youth Work between polarities of
 - „international cultural policy“
 - collaboration in youth policy
 - Civic / political education
 - youth, leisure and travelling

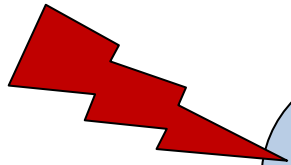


aims: education and experience ↔ global labour market





1.3 Rationals for Mobility



risks

Mobility is also linked with capitalism

Decision of young people (empowerment)

Forced by circumstances (employability)

Mobility programmes not for social distinction



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2. Principles of International Youth Work

- **Mutual Recognition and acceptance:** equality as a paradigm for persons, organisations / groups, countries, states, nations
- Awareness



2. Principles of International Youth Work

- sustainable **cooperation**
- success and sustainability of international youth work depends on:
 - **personality**
 - a cooperative attitude within the organisations / institutions, including a high degree of **flexibility**
 - a common understanding regarding the **aims** of international exchange



2. Principles of International Youth Work

- **Negotiation** as a principle – no country, no pedagogical, political or economical idea should be dominant
- **Basic moral principals of Europe**
- **Human Rights, Participation and democracy** as guidelines



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3. Research on effects

- Activities of international youth work have „positive effects“ on young people
- Research is able to reconstruct this ex post.
- Ultimately, Individuals educate themselves.



3. Research on effects

➤ Youth education (micro-level)

personal and democratic education / academic, professional (functional) competences

➤ Youth policy (meso-level)

cooperation between organisations

➤ Foreign policy (macro-level)

international understanding / language policy / international cultural policy / strategic partnership



3. Research on effects

Youth education (micro level)

- social learning
- strengthening of personality
- room for development of identity (person / group / society)
- Sensitivity to the unknown, tolerance



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4. Perspectives

- ensure the right and the experience of mobility **for all young people**
- avoid **instrumentalisation** of youth work as an instrument for employability
- Strengthen the **political / civic dimension**



4. Perspectives – research

- **Research on non-formal educational settings – qualitative and quantitative empirical research**
- **international comparative research on international youth work / youth mobility and international discourse**



Thank you.



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