

# **Linking Youth Work & Learning Mobility: the policy perspective**

Hanjo Schild, EU-CoE Youth Partnership

European Platform on Learning Mobility in the youth field

Conference “Mobility Spaces – Learning Spaces – Linking Policy, Research  
and Practice” in Berlin, 20-22 March 2013

# Sources

- Glossary in EKCYP
- Youth Policy Topics in EKCYP:
  - Education & Training, Non-formal Learning, Learning Mobility
- Youth Knowledge Book:
  - Learning Mobility & Non-formal Learning in European contexts
- Flagship initiative “Youth on the Move”
- Declaration of the
  - 1st European Youth Work Convention

# Origins and ancestors

- **Learning dimension of mobility historically manifold and linked to**
  - experiential learning (VET, “wandering years” of craftsmen...)
  - “forced” mobility (poverty, war, exile, labour market...)
  - habits and needs of social classes (upper class...)
  - youth movements and gatherings (Wandervögel, scouts, political youth organisations...)
  - better understanding and peace-building, post war / post conflict, friendship, intercultural learning....
  - Au-pair placements, young workers mobility schemes
  - European programmes (CoE: EYF & EYCA / EU: ESF, Erasmus, Youth, EVS...)
  - European policies (Education & Training, Youth....)

# **What is Youth Work?**

# Purposes

- Providing space for association, activity, dialogue and action
- Providing support, opportunity and experience

# Principles

- guided & governed by
  - principles of active citizenship, participation & empowerment
  - values of human rights and democracy
  - anti-discrimination and tolerance
  - quality assurance

# Nature

- activities with and for all young people, with special focus on young people with fewer opportunities
- activities of a social, cultural, educational or political nature
- belongs to the domain of 'out-of-school' education, either non-formal, informal or sometimes formal learning

# Aims

- integration and inclusion of young people in society
- well-being and autonomy
- personal and social emancipation of young people from dependency and exploitation



# Aims

- deals with (un)employment, education(al failure), social in-/exclusion & marginalization
- includes work on aspects such as assistance and guidance, housing, mobility, criminal justice, health, participation, cultural activities, leisure and sports

**...and what is  
Youth Policy?**

# Aims

- create conditions for learning, opportunity and experience
- enable young people to develop the knowledge, competences & skills - to be actors of democracy
- integrate into society
- play an active part in both, civil society & the labour market

**What is  
Learning Mobility  
in the youth field?**

# Purposes

- Economic = human resources for an internal market, growth & jobs
- Sociocultural = Europe of citizens, living together in diversity

# Principles

- principle of free movement in Europe
- based on values & quality standards
- learning as a central component of mobility, whether
  - formal, informal or
  - non-formal learning

# Formal learning

- purposive learning in institutionalised contexts
- integral part of curricula in schools, universities or VET
- usually or often compulsory
- recognised by certificates

# Informal learning

- non-purposive learning by doing
- in everyday life contexts (family, work, leisure, peers, community, holidays....)
- usually not recorded or even certified



# Non-formal learning

- purposive / intentional / planned
- of voluntary nature
- in diverse environments
- not structured in traditional or conventional ways
- rarely, but increasingly certified

# Nature

- staying in another country for study, a work placement, community work or additional training in context of lifelong learning
- inside & outside of Europe
- diversity of programmes

# Nature

- all (young) Europeans: school children, students, apprentices, volunteers, young people on the labour market, socio-educational instructors, teachers, researchers, trainers, youth workers....
- focus on inclusion of young people with fewer opportunities

# Aims

- promoting and developing
  - personal & professional competences
  - communication, interpersonal & intercultural skills
  - active citizenship

# Aims

- increase opportunities towards employment, strengthen future employability
- preparing young people to face the future challenges of economy
- acquiring new professional competences

# Aims

- developing a positive attitude towards mobility
- prepare young people to live in the society of the future
- be open to new ideas and deal with the unfamiliar
- foster cultural diversity, European identity & citizenship

# **Where are the links?**

**Please make your choice  
and draw your lines**

# Conclusions



- diverse motivations:  
between economy, social inclusion and democracy / citizenship
- diverse learning aims:  
between social, personal and professional competences
- diverse learning concepts:  
between formal, informal & non-formal
- diverse target groups:  
between students / trainees / apprentices and *all* young people

# What should youth policy do?

- Promote the key principles and values of youth work as well in learning mobility schemes: participatory, inclusive, rights-based, opportunity-focused, based on equality of access & involvement, knowledge-based, cross-sectorial, intercultural....
- Improve information and knowledge on the links between learning mobility & youth work and their impact on young people and society

- Making visible the links between learning mobility and youth work and promoting social, political and formal recognition of these activities
- Supporting the development of quality standards for learning mobility schemes in youth work as well as of measures to achieve and meet these standards
- Providing appropriate support structures, dialogue platforms and tools for learning mobility in youth work

- Providing even stronger international mobility programmes for all young people and volunteers as well as for professionals in youth work, youth policy and youth research
- Including all levels in these strategies, European, national, regional and local and excluding to be played off against each other
- Keeping a balance in the aims of learning mobility schemes: between democracy, social inclusion and growth & jobs

**THE END**