

About the editorial team

Maurice Devlin, Ph.D., is Jean Monnet Professor and Director of the Centre for Youth Research and Development, Department of Applied Social Studies, in the National University of Ireland, Maynooth. He is joint chairperson of the North-South (all-Ireland) Education and Standards Committee for Youth Work, Irish correspondent for the European Knowledge Centre on Youth Policy, and a member of the Pool of European Youth Researchers. He is also currently Co-Vice President for Europe (including the Russian Federation) of the Research Committee on Youth of the International Sociological Association.

Günter Friesenhahn, Ph.D., is Professor of European Community Education Studies and Dean of the Faculty of Social Studies at the University of Applied Sciences in Koblenz, Germany. Currently he is Vice President of the European Association of Schools of Social Work (EASSW). His teaching and research areas are: social professions in Europe, international youth work and diversity studies.

Koen Lambert holds a master's in modern history from the University of Ghent. He worked as a civil servant at the Ministry of the Flemish Community, on local youth policy in Flanders and in 1990 he became the director of JINT, the co-ordination agency for international youth work of the Flemish Community. The mission of JINT is to support young people, youth organisations and youth policy makers in their international co-operation. JINT is the National Agency for the EU Youth in Action programme in the Flemish Community.

Matina Magkou is a cultural and youth projects consultant. She has been involved in youth structures and training at the European level since 2000 and has been a member of the European Youth Forum Bureau (2002-2003). She recently became a member of the Pool of Trainers of the Council of Europe and has written various publications in the field of youth. She is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in leisure studies. She co-ordinates the editorial work of this publication.

Hans-Joachim Schild has worked since 2005 for the partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the field of youth, focusing on the promotion of knowledge-based youth policies and quality development and recognition of youth work and non-formal learning/education. He previously worked in various environments in the youth sector, including the Youth Policy Unit in the DG of Education and Culture at the European Commission, an NGO in the field of labour market, vocational education and training, social inclusion and youth and as a trainer and social pedagogue.

Reinhard Schwalbach has been Head of the Information for International Youth Work and Youth Policy Department at IJAB – International Youth Service of the Federal Republic of Germany – since 1994. He has been active as a volunteer in youth work and studied political science, sociology, European ethnology and educational science in Marburg/Lahn. He was a trainer for Group Leaders of International Work Camps (IJGD 1980-1986) and since 2008, he has been President of the European Eurodesk Network.

Alex Stutz is Head of Policy at the National Youth Agency, the leading charity for youth work and youth workers in England which works on championing the

work of youth workers; enabling youth workers to do what they do; and supporting the recognition of youth work as a profession. Alex has worked at the NYA for over eight years and manages the policy, information and research output for the agency.

Leena Suurpää works as Research Director in the Finnish Youth Research Network, a multidisciplinary research community pursuing academic and applied research on young people, youth cultures, youth work and youth policies. Her multidisciplinary research interests are related to multiculturalism and racism as well as young people's engagement in diverse fields of civil society, policy environments and welfare structures.

Tineke Van de Walle works at Ghent University as a researcher in the Youth Research Platform (JOP), a policy-oriented research network on youth in Flanders. Her research focuses on the access of diverse youth groups to youth work and organised leisure activities. Her research interests further include the link between academic research, policy and practice in the field of youth.

Howard Williamson is Professor of European Youth Policy at the University of Glamorgan. He is also Affiliate Professor in Youth and Community Studies at the University of Malta and Visiting Fellow at the Institute for Social Research in Zagreb. Previously, he worked at the universities of Oxford, Cardiff and Copenhagen. He is a JNC-qualified youth worker and has been involved in youth work practice for many years. He has worked on a range of "youth issues" such as learning, justice, substance misuse, exclusion and citizenship at European and national levels. Currently he co-ordinates the Council of Europe's international reviews of national youth policies.

Antonia Wulff has a background in the Organising Bureau of European School Student Unions (OBESSU) and is a former chair of the Council of Europe Advisory Council on Youth. She holds a Master of Sciences in sociology and currently works with international education policy.