



Visible Value

Mapping of tools and good practices for better recognition of youth work and non-formal learning/education at European and national levels

Why a Mapping of recognition tools and practices?

As the recent *study on the value of youth work*¹ shows, there is an extraordinary work done by thousands of youth workers and youth organisations across Europe. This is done through accompanying young people in the development of their competences for personal growth, active participation in society and bettering their chances in the labour market. However the question remains to what extent are youth workers themselves aware of the value of their own work and of the actual impact they have on the lives of young people? There is also a question as to what extent other people/sectors and stakeholders outside the youth field can actually understand and appreciate the value of youth work and non-formal learning/education with young people? The third question relates to just how much this kind of educational work has been seen as part of the lifelong learning arena and to what extent the learning outcomes are appreciated by the young people themselves, as well as being visible to the people around them (their families, friends, teachers, employers, etc.)?

In brief, the question is *how much have youth work and non-formal learning/education managed to gain recognition at national and European level?* Since the publication of the *White Paper on youth* (European Commission, 2001) and the Parliamentary Assembly's *Recommendation on non-formal education* (Council of Europe, 2000), the claims for better recognition of youth work and non-formal learning/education have been made. The summary of the possible actions have been laid out in the first edition of the EU-CoE joint working paper *Pathways towards Validation and Recognition of Education, Training and Learning in the Youth Field* in 2003 and updated in its second edition *Pathways 2.0* in 2011. During these 15 years of dynamic policy and practice-related developments, many actions were taken, practices tried out, and tools developed at national and European levels. It seems now is a good time to take stock of these evolvments, share these tools and practices, and make them accessible and visible to the youth field and other interested parties.

The main **aim** of the Mapping is to **contribute to the promotion of youth work, as well to share, transfer and multiply well-tested approaches and inspire further initiatives towards recognition at local, national and European level.**

The Mapping is an informative and inspiring collection of current and/or recently developed tools and practices. It is published here as a dynamic, diverse and accessible on-line publication. In other words, the Mapping provides a 'one-click' informative overview of current recognition tools and practices for all interested parties. It is our hope that the Mapping will be regularly updated and become a growing collection of tools, kept up-to-date together with the field of practice.

¹ Dunne, A., Ulicna, D., Murphy, I., Golubeva, M (2014): Working with young people: the value of youth work in the European Union, European Commission