

Youth Knowledge Forum

Engage (Youth) Researchers?

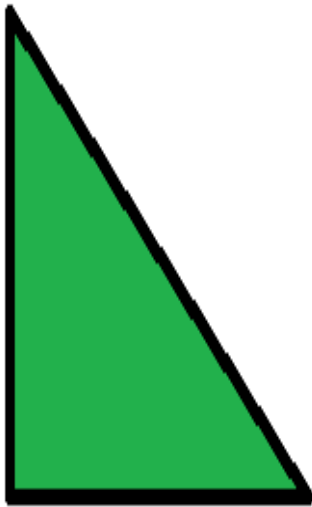
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# It's all about the Questions:

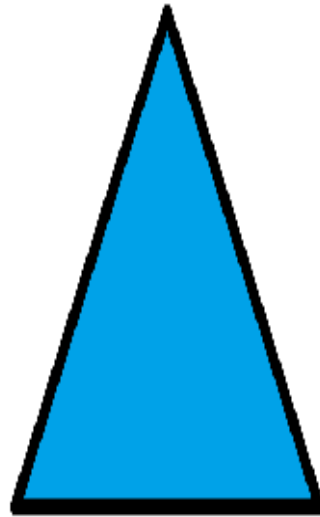
- ✓ **Why** – Do we need the guidelines?
- ✓ **Why?** – Work with youth researchers?
- ✓ **What?** – Are the benefits of youth research?
- ✓ **What?** – Is the role of youth researchers?
- ✓ **What?** – A researcher can do for my project/organisation?
- ✓ **Where?** – To find youth researchers?
- ✓ **How?** – To develop the project?
- ✓ **How?** -To work with them/us? \*Youth researchers



# The magic Triangle: Policy Makers – Practitioners – Researchers



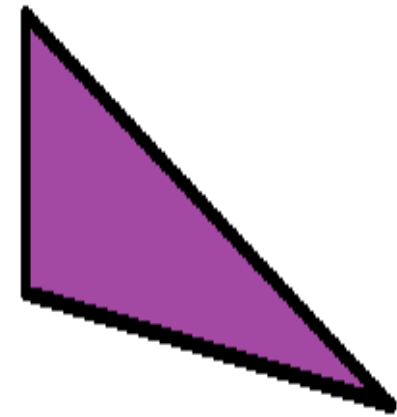
*Right-angled Triangle*



*Equilateral Triangle*



*Isosceles Triangle*



*Scalene Triangle*

# Why work with (youth) researchers?

Within [Youth Research: The Essentials](#) the role of youth research is mainly perceived through 3 stances:

1. The ethical obligation of our societies to understand the youth realities in a systematic way.
2. To understand broader social change it is necessary to know how young people contribute to societal transformation, and how external circumstances influence their lives.
3. When designing policies, interventions, programmes, projects, activities and so forth, professionals need to know whether what is being done is likely to be of some help, and if so, to what extent.

# The benefits of using Youth Research:

- \* It can be used for learning about youth needs, interests and realities.
- \* It can be used to father the types of practices and instruments that better function in supporting young people and to map out the youth realities. For the policy makers, research is also an asset into projecting policy and thinking about what could work and what could be improved.
- \* It is essential to developing a new approach to policy.
- \* It can be used to identify the effectiveness, relevance, efficiency and impact of policy/practice
- \* It can be used to facilitate learning about policies and youth practice working in different places and contexts, encouraging therefore the transfer of the best practices.
- \* Other suggestions?

# The role of youth researchers

- \* can be specialised in "youth studies", but they are many labeled as sociologists, political scientists, psychologists etc.
- \* But should be understood by different stakeholders that the youth researcher role is quite specific and requires a specific set of knowledge that covers the youth realities
- \* \*Not only restricted to academia!

# Benefits (potential):

1. Allowing the contractor to **develop research that is specific to the needs** of the organisation/institution and also to meet these needs.
2. Ensuring that **youth policies and youth practices are knowledge based**.
3. Shows **professionalism into documenting and developing** the set of instruments and practices, of projects, programmes and policies.
4. Shows **objectivity** and comes also with a set of ethics that are extremely relevant for policy and practices.
5. Determines a **smoother approach for the monitoring and evaluation** of the developed.
6. Then practices and policies, allowing the development of the set of **indicators** to follow.



# YR can do for my organisation:

1. Evaluating the effectiveness and impact of policies that have been implemented
2. Conducting a literature review and sourcing data on a thematic area in order to provide access to the most up to date knowledge in that area.
3. Reviewing how policy is implemented across different countries / territories
4. Providing advice on programme design based on current research knowledge
5. Undertaking needs analysis of a community
6. Collecting data and developing instruments for data collection
7. Analysing programme data
8. Conducting research into a key theme topic
9. Conducting mapping of practices
10. Evaluations of programmes or project results

# Where to find Youth Researchers:

- \* [The Pool of European Youth Researchers](#) –
- \* The [EKCYP](#)
- \* The [EKCYP expert database](#)
- \* [Youth Wiki Network](#)
- \* **National networks**
- \* **Local networks** of youth researchers/research institutes/non-governmental organisations.

# The Key:



# Needed:

1. Long term relationships – more than an individual project
2. Ideally, having own youth research organisations/institutes
3. creating and supporting research networks at the national level
4. partnerships with grant funded research institutions should be on the policy makers agenda as well as on the practitioners working plans.
5. Practitioners need research to document projects/activities

# Commissioning or initiating a youth research project



# Starting point

- \* having a **clear goal or objective** is central to conducting research effectively.
- \* developing a clear understanding of **how you hope to apply the knowledge** produced can also be beneficial.
- \* Identifying who the **target audience** for the research results and key stakeholders are can also be useful. To add the cross-ref to knowledge transfer guide

# ToR

- ✓ **The purpose** of the research project
- ✓ **The expected research outputs**
- ✓ **The budget and expected time frame** for the research
- ✓ How **data management**, sharing and research participant confidentiality be dealt with

# 5 key elements

Experience shows there are five important elements to keep in mind during a research project:

1. Before starting data collection and analysis, it is a good practice to ensure the researchers and the research beneficiaries **have a common understanding** of the research scope and to clarify the methodology to be used.
2. **Researchers need the opportunity to express their needs** when conducting the evaluation and to ensure the support from the research beneficiaries.
3. Usually **researchers need support in collecting data**.
4. **Flexibility** is needed during a research process.
5. After collecting and analysing data, researchers need **feedback** on their draft work.



# The Checklist



# Check the Checklist

- ◆ Create a clear outline of what knowledge the research is intended to produce
- ◆ Identify who the key stakeholders and audience for the research are
- ◆ Create a clear outline of how that knowledge might be used
- ◆ Develop an agreement on how data will be gathered, shared and controlled securely and legally between the actors involved
- ◆ Defined a research methodology that is suitable for the purposes of the study?
- ◆ Develop terms of references for the research
- ◆ Enure the researchers involved have the relevant thematic and methodological competencies
- ◆ Develop a timeline
- ◆ Set a budget
- ◆ Request an inception report to ensure the researchers and the research beneficiaries have a common understanding of the research scope and to clarify the methodology to be used and the (possible) needs of the researchers
- ◆ Cooperate with the researcher during the researchers process and, if needed, support them for data collection
- ◆ Provide feedback to the researcher on draft outputs

# Q&A&Comments&Suggestions?

