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**YOUTH WORK EXPERT MEETING**

**in The Netherlands, 27 – 30 June 2016**

***The innovative role of municipal youth work in partnership with education, employment and social welfare***

*Developing innovative non-formal education approaches between youth work and its collaborative partners to include young people with disadvantaged backgrounds in local society*

**3-Day Expert Meeting with project visits**

**27 – 30 June 2016**

**Tilburg, the Netherlands**

**Main topics**

How can municipal youth work innovate to further support young people with disadvantaged backgroundsto improve their opportunities in education, work, (health-)care, income, housing and leisure time? What is needed to strengthen collaboration between youth policy, youth work, young people and other sectors like education, businesses and social work? How can we co-create innovative non-formal education approaches between all partners and which are the main factors of success in the triangle of youth policy, youth work and its collaborative partners (in conditions and methods)? How can we develop co-productive approaches between young people, youth workers and youth policy makers to this end? Who should have which role?

**Participants’ profile**

In this TCA activity we want to gather representatives of municipalities and youth work professionals of those countries or regions where youth work is the responsibility of municipalities.

We invite ***pairs*** of experts from the same town being a:

1. local youth policy representative (in either youth, social, education and/or employment policies, depending on the local organizational structure of the municipality), working within the municipality
2. local professional youth work manager or senior professional working with and for young people with disadvantaged backgrounds and fewer opportunities (in social support or care, out of employment, risk of school dropout etc.)

They should already work together within their own local setting, have expertise in above-mentioned fields and with young people with disadvantaged backgrounds and be able to work together after the seminar in order to implement the lessons learnt.

**Objectives:**

* To learn how municipal youth work and local youth policy ánd young people relate to each other and share experiences
* To learn about the role of youth work in connecting with other sectors in different European municipalities/countries
* To exchange opportunities and challenges in local youth work in partnerships with schools, social work, employment offices and businesses and possible other work sectors involved
* To develop a set of success factors (and possible risks) to develop further collaboration between youth work, youth policy makers, young people and other sectors;
* To explore principles for innovative non-formal education approaches between youth work, education and employment and the required conditions.

The program will be composed by the [Netherlands Youth Institute](http://www.youthpolicy.nl/en/About-Netherlands-Youth-Institute) and [Erasmus+ Youth](http://www.erasmusplus.nl/) together with [R-Newt](http://www.r-newt.nl/) Youth Work. Representatives of our national partners have been involved in the preparation: [Youth Spot](http://www.amsterdamuas.com/arisi/shared-content/research-groups/youth-spot/youth-spot.html) (the Professoriate of Youth Work at the University of Applied Sciences), [BVJong](http://www.bvjong.nl/%20) (the National Association of Youth Work Professionals) [POYWE](http://poywe.org/site/) (Professional Open Youth Work Europe), [NJR](http://www.njr.nl/) (the Dutch National Youth Council) and [Intercity Youth](http://intercityyouth.eu/) (the European Network of Local Departments for Youth Work).

**Our Host; R-Newt: a municipal youth work organization in** [**Tilburg**](http://www.vvvtilburg.nl/index.aspx)

The Expert Meeting will take place in the city of Tilburg. A-3 days Expert Meeting with project visits to innovative and successful youth work projects in Tilburg. ContourdeTwern R-Newt is an innovative youth work organization in the southern part of the Netherlands, R-Newt will host the meeting, organize visits to their projects and will take active part in the preparation of the content of the expert meeting.

R-Newt is a large youth work NGO that works closely with the local responsible municipality through contractual program agreements. They are part of the local infrastructure of social preventive services for young people at risk. The professional youth workers work within the youth centers and as *outreach* workers on the streets, but also in target-oriented programs together with employers, educational workers and social work professionals. They work mainly for young people in risky situations within the policy of welfare, care, safety and talent development. They work i.e. for young people dealing with debts, young people out of employment education or training (NEET’s), young people with addiction issues etc.

**Background to Dutch youth work settings**

Professional (open) youth work in the Netherlands is very diverse. There are no national quality guidelines; although there is a (relatively new) professional code. An important momentum is January 2015; a new Act on Youth Welfare came into force, which means a shift in responsibilities for youth welfare and youth care towards municipalities. Before 2015 the youth care was organized through the provinces. Since 2015 local authorities have full responsibility to organize community welfare, social support ánd youth care. Within this new local landscape, local authorities and welfare and care providers are now developing inter-professional working methods to support children, young people and families in need or at risk within their own living environments. This also has consequences for the aims and methods of youth work within this new landscape. Local policies may demand youth work to act as youth social work in e.g. providing individual guidance in preventive care for young people at risk or as outreach ambulant workers to reduce hindrance on the streets, or to work talent oriented with groups of young people within the youth centers.

Youth Work in the Netherlands is an approach in youth work that asks to collaborate with other local partners in the socio-educational field working with (vulnerable) young people. This generates projects and programs with schools, employers, mental health care organizations and others working with young people. An advantage in current youth work system is that the links with policy are closer and it is easier to influence policy (by showing good examples and presenting the results). New projects combine aspects of youth work, youth care and education which result in interesting new offers for young people.

In the Dutch system, the support and care for young people is organized by commissioning NGO’s (youth work and/or youth care providers) through contractual agreements with the local authorities. This system implies that the approach of an organization is based on the local policy priorities. In bigger cities welfare organizations cover youth work, social work, care for elderly and youth care. Smaller municipalities mostly commission regionally operating organizations to organize youth work or youth care. You may realize that this creates a large diversity in focus, approaches and clarity about the role of youth work within the local setting. Youth work also has to deal with budget cuts at local levels

**For more information:**

You can find more information and apply online on [www.salto-youth.net](http://www.salto-youth.net). Application deadline is the 16th of May 2016. The final selection will be communicated before the 28th of May.

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