

Migration Shaping Youth Work

Hi! Great that you want to dive deeper into the background of the seminar. Disclaimer: this document is rather theoretical and conceptual, the seminar will be more practical.

Background

European societies are shaped and continue to be shaped by migration. While this is a reality, societies struggle with accepting, acknowledging, recognising, appreciating and valorising it. In this seminar we want to deepen the understanding of how societies are shaped by migration, engage with the lived realities of people experiencing structural barriers because of migration, and focus on the daily practices and realities of youth work.

In the seminar we want to use the lens of post-migrant societies. The concept doesn't imply that migration has or should be overcome, it rather describes the aftereffects and how migration shapes and reconfigures the present. The term thus has a descriptive dimension, in that it seeks to capture the fact that most present-day European societies are societies of migration. This acknowledgement also has normative implications, since accepting this post-migratory condition complicates certain dominant binaries (for examples "migrant" vs. "sedentary"; "strange" vs. "familiar"; "inside" vs "outside") and narratives of the nation state.

Post-migration considers immigration and emigration as phenomena that have an impact on countries, which can be discussed, regulated and negotiated but not reversed. This means that for example affiliations and national (collective) identities are being renegotiated and adjusted. The European Programmes for youth have a great potential to smoothen and support those processes in post-migrant societies. By bringing together youth workers and organisations with expertise and experience in the field, we want to explore this potential. The roots of this seminar lie in the belief that youth work, and more in particular the European programmes for youth, have the potential to smoothen and support renegotiation and adjustment processes in societies shaped by migration. By bringing together youth workers and persons connected to the field of youth, we want to explore this potential.

At the same time, it's clear that young people with a migrant background, a refugee- or asylum seeker status are in a disadvantaged situation compared to their peers to participate in Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps. The implementation guidelines of the Inclusion & Diversity Strategy acknowledge cultural differences and discrimination linked to amongst others ethnicity, religion, and beliefs as barriers to access opportunities in the programmes. With the concept of post-migration we want to explore and create a better understanding of structural barriers that young people face to participate in the European programmes for youth.

To conclude, the outcomes of the seminar should support the Strategic Partnership for Inclusion to develop practices, tools, and methods to strengthen the participation of young people experiencing barriers of post-migrant societies.

Further readings

- <https://www.bpb.de/themen/migration-integration/kurzdossiers/205295/post-migrant-society/>
- <https://memorymigrationrelationality.org/migration/postmigrant-societies/>
- <https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/document/implementation-guidelines-erasmus-and-european-solidarity-corps-inclusion-and-diversity-strategy>