

VERSLAG

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Davide Capecchi - The future of European Youth Policy and it's impact on Flemish Youth Work organisations

Verslag:

Youth policy at European level does not exist.

There is a youth strategy:

- 1/ To engage, to participate in democratic processes, to develop citizenship. Youth participation, digital democracy.
- 2/ To connect. To cross borders through mobility, solidarity, validation of competencies.
- 3/ The most important: empowerment. The added value of youthwork. To support Grass root youth work centres and organizations. Youth policy works much better when started from regional level or grass roots.

Youth goals: 18.000 youngsters involved. (<http://www.youthconf.at/youthgoals/>)

- 1/ Connecting EU with youth
- 2/ Equality of all genders
- 3/ Inclusive societies
- 4/ Information & constructive dialogue
- 5/ Mental health & wellbeing
- 6/ Moving Rural youth forward
- 7/ Quality employment for all
- 8/ Quality learning
- 9/ Space and participation for all
- 10/ Sustainable Green Europe
- 11/ Youth organizations & European programmes

6 trends:

- Belonging: how do young people create their own identity? What is their place?
- Agency and empowerment: how to take action (in their own lives)?
- Participation and expression
- Volunteering and engagement
- Learning and training
- Working and creating: how to foster creativity and find their way in development in labor market

Interessante quote(s):

We can help young people with jobs, but we cannot change the market. How can we tackle cross-sectional issues? Youth work has limited resources. We cannot solve every problem. Being aware of it is an important start. Cross-sectional approach is embedded in the strategy. One thing: European youth coordinator.

Wat heeft jou verrast? Wat is dat ene element dat je zeker zal onthouden?

Waar kwamen veel vragen, opmerkingen, reacties of bedenkingen over?

You can find a lot of inspiration on (<https://pjp-eu.coe.int/en/web/youth-partnership/symposium>) → Symposium on youth policy and sponsors to contemporary challenges faced by young people in June 2016: 6 tips divided by reality and policy.

How can we weigh on the youth work agenda in European youth strategy?

- The youth work agenda has no content yet.
- Mile stones : academy: starting to understand in which direction the agenda could go, bottom up initiative.
- Youth work convention 2020: framework not set yet

Grass roots groups and movements: Flemish youthwork is somewhere in between institutions and grass roots movement. How containers and structures can include a space for grass roots to flourish without being framed. If it is not happening in youth work, initiatives can be more enriching but also more dangerous. Youth work a space for expressing themselves.

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What is the strength of Flemish youthwork? Richness: young people are empowered, growing up in non-judgmental environment, participating. They become active citizens. Local empowerment and initiatives. Core center of youth work.

Weakness: bottom up approach might also create sense of dispersion. Answers that already have been formulated. Solutions that already have been developed. De Ambrassade provides a platform to exchange ways.

There is no European Youth Policy, but youth is impacted by the policy of the EU. Discussion: should organizations also work on the international level?

- NO: No duty, but can be enriching. Not a value in itself. Through the work of De Ambrassade, JINT,... you know what is going on.
- YES: De Ambrassade and JINT is not enough. Also individual organizations should connect to European level. One of the most important reasons: make the reality clear on European level. Cannot be done enough. They learn very slowly, difficult process. Flanders is a good example, it works here.
- There is a federation, the Youth Forum. But is based on membership, organizations are structured under umbrella's. The reality: large parts of youthwork are not structured not represented. They should organize themselves to have an impact.

Applications:

- A lot of projects, to apply require time, but it is not easy. Applicant for programs: it changed a lot if simplified. It is a balance because money from the public. Partnership requirements should be more light. Preparations are not funded.
- **In some countries youth policy is only supported by the programs, not by the national level?**
- Should we get more organized when it comes to funding? Professionals who write? Youth sector at this moment is well served, cultural sector is decreasing. A lot of organizations can have the support of JINT and they can do it. But how can youthwork be active in programs who are not specific for youth? More need for knowledge, and exchange.
Difficulty: different language, different priorities. Reality a very few succeed. The disadvantages are higher than the advantages.

Council of Europe vs. the local community. Europe goes local: support youthwork at local level for the empowerment on local level. Broad awareness of the connection between Europe and the local.

European youth policy: quite vague when we speak about it. At UN level: SDG's as a way to structure our work. That was also the ambition of the 11 youth goals. It is in the strategy but it is not as such communicated as the SDG's. Some organizations pushed to get it in the annex. But there should be done more and better to be a big part of the strategy.

We are missing something to talk about Europe.

The SDG's: organisations discover them and use the same frame because they think it is interesting. If you think it is an interesting framework and there is a consensus, than De Ambrassade could use it as a good practice. Could help to use the same words to give meaning to what we do. And if we start, the other regions have to start as well.

Wat onthoud je voor de toekomst van het jeugdwerk?