



Y.E.S. Forum – Wagenburgstr. 26-28, D-70184 Stuttgart
Tel: +49-711-164 89 27, E-mail: yes-info@yes-forum.eu

Youth on the Move Initiative

Y.E.S. Forum Contribution

to the Public Debate with the Commissioner Vassiliou

on 17th September 2010

Scope and goals of the Y.E.S. Forum

The Y.E.S. Forum can contribute to the policy process as its strength is in its day to day work for young people through its member organisations and partners. The Y.E.S. Forum is a network of 22 organisations in across 14 countries in the EU. It is bound together by a commitment to the social inclusion and active participation of all children and young people who experience disadvantage and exclusion.

The Y.E.S. Forum aims to foster a sustainable dialogue about the needs and interests of young people with fewer opportunities amongst the various stakeholders including young people themselves, youth and social workers, as well as decision makers. Hence the Y.E.S. Forum seeks:

- to encourage professional networking and exchange of good practice amongst youth workers, social workers and other professionals,
- to support peer-to-peer contact and greater mobility between young people from different European countries,
- to develop and promote new ways of thinking in youth social work and
- to transfer experience and knowledge from the practical field to actively influence European politics on youth and social affairs.

Mobility for everybody

The Y.E.S. Forum welcomes the Commission's attempts to improve the conditions for transnational mobility of the young people. Especially the disadvantaged young people benefit very much from it. Thanks to various forms of transnational mobility, often for the first time in their lives, they receive a chance to go abroad. Transnational mobility contributes to the acquisition of the language skills, which are getting more and more important for the future professional life in the globalised world and which are often a neglected subject in school education of this target group. The stays abroad are a place for learning social values and norms, individual potentials and self-reliance. The young people with lack of formal qualifications get new prospects on the labour market and their employability is significantly improved. Sometimes for the very first time in their lives they get a chance for a new start in a totally new environment - without the burden and prejudices of the past.

The Y.E.S. Forum criticises however that the mobility is still accessible rather for the well-situated and better-educated groups of the young people like university students and is out of

reach for others, such as apprentices, school drop-outs and unemployed youth. The reality shows that many young people are excluded by a non-privileged educational background. They can not benefit of many opportunities, because the available mobility programmes are too complex, too confusing and related to a significant obstacles and efforts in the application procedure. In addition, the disadvantaged young people are frequently lacking moral and material support. For instance, on the first sight a minor, but for this target group one of the fundamental obstacles seems to be the long-stay requirement of the most mobility programmes. The experience shows that the short-stays are more adequate for the disadvantaged participants and serve as a motivating factor for further goals.

Based on the rich experience of its members the Y.E.S. Forum presented the important conditions for better inclusion of disadvantaged young people in different transnational mobility measures. To learn about these proposals and to read the Y.E.S. Forum contribution please:

- Visit the Y.E.S. Forum website with many **practical examples** of successful implementation of mobility projects for disadvantaged young people:
<http://www.yes-forum.eu/>
- Or the direct link to the **Y.E.S. Forum contribution on learning mobility**:
http://www.yes-forum.eu/fileadmin/user_upload/docs/Publications/YES.Position.YouthPolicy.fin.pdf
- Or contact our office: yes-info@yes-forum.eu

Mobility as a fundamental right

In the light of the positive impact of and the benefits coming from the transnational mobility, the Y.E.S. Forum promotes the approach that all young people in Europe should have a possibility to accomplish a part of their education or training in another European country.

If the European mobility should be widely applied as a learning opportunity and the excluding barriers should be reduced, the learning mobility tools and facilities must be enshrined as a **fundamental right for all young people**. For those, who lack the necessary moral and financial resources, additional funding mechanisms should be established.

The mobility of young people with fewer opportunities (such as physical disabilities, lack of appropriate qualifications for employment, isolated in rural areas, ex-prisoners, migrants, etc) should be promoted, in order to improve their participation and employability. This topic should command high priority and has to be dealt with as **a separate mobility policy**. This should include:

- the design of the future ESF Programme, “2014-2020 ESF”, in a way that it allows for explicit mobility activities for young people.
- the development of the EU policies, strategies and structures in a way that ensure a common and stringent improvement of the structures, processes and quality in support of the European mobility programmes.
- the starting of a separate and coordinated campaign at the European and National levels that clearly states and supports the value and the recognition of mobility measures for the individuals themselves, for actions fostering education and for businesses.

- the combining of a comprehensive co-operation and collaboration between different Sectors (i.e. European, National, Regional, Public, NGOs, Enterprises, Education, Social and Business Sectors, such as tourism / agriculture / trade, etc).

Conclusions

The European mobility for learning purposes brings many important and positive changes and developments in the lives of the young people.

Mobility of disadvantaged young people requires however special conditions: greater efforts and increased attention and consequently is more demanding from the staff and the financial point of view. It needs continuity, stable structures and close partnerships. The access to and the conditions for transnational mobility measures must be modified and better adjusted to this target group.