

YES Forum's Project Planning Meeting 14-15 September 2017, Stuttgart

Summary

On 14-15 September 2017, the YES Forum organised its annual Project Planning Meeting in Stuttgart, Germany.

This year, the Project Planning Meeting was organised in cooperation with and hosted by the **Europa Zentrum Baden-Württemberg**, an organisation promoting European awareness in Stuttgart and the neighbouring areas. *Europa Zentrum* presented its work and inspired the PPM participants by sharing its own methods and good practices. This includes the quite unique "[Legislativity](#)", a board game released this year, letting its players learning about the EU legislative process ... while having fun!



This two-day event prepared the ground for new collaboration opportunities in the future, with one aim: to improve youth work across the European Union and to better help youngsters with fewer opportunities! The discussions and brainstorming sessions provided an invaluable starting point for further collaboration within the network: through several workshops, **nine new project ideas were developed**. In the upcoming months concrete project proposals will be written based on the work done in Stuttgart (summaries below).

In order to support and stimulate the project development process, the participants also shared their organisations' own good practices, and learnt about **additional funding opportunities** at the European level. These include [Erasmus+](#) of course, but also parallel EU programmes and funds relevant for the youth field such as the [REC programme](#) (Rights, Equality and Citizenship) and "[Europe for Citizens](#)", and the brand new [European Solidarity Corps](#).



Finally, the YES Forum participating members also discussed and took the last step in view of **founding a new legal entity** to provide innovative and flexible ways to support the YES Forum's work. Keep posted to be updated about its creation!

Pictures of the event are already available on the [YES Forum's Facebook here](#). And don't forget you can also follow us on [Twitter](#) and our [website](#), or through our [Newsletter](#)!

Annex 1: Project Proposals

The main objective and outcome of the 2018 Project Planning Meeting was to give birth and/or develop project ideas to support the YES Forum members and partners' work for young disadvantaged people across Europe. This led to **nine project ideas** that will become project proposals in the next few months.

Here is a brief summary of the project ideas. If you are interested in joining one of these project proposals as a partner, or if you simply want more details about them, feel free to [contact the YES Forum Secretariat!](#)



“Democracy has to be earned by US - Every day all year around...”	
Lead applicant	<p>Skelleftea Kommun, Sweden</p> <p><i>Note: To broaden its geographical scope, the partnership is seeking organisations from France, South-Eastern Europe and Eastern Europe!</i></p>
General goal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fighting the erosion of democratic values in Europe and worldwide; - Strengthening democratic values among youth.
Specific objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Investigate reasons why youth and young adults have reduced their interest to live in democracies even in Europe; - Implement adapted transnational, national and local activities in order to counter the weakening of democratic values among youth and society in general.
Target group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - European Youth; - Youth in general; - NGOs promoting democracy and freedom.
Main activities	<p>A <u>Preparatory Meeting will be organised in the 4th quarter of 2017</u> in order to better define the partnership's working plan and fine-tune the future project application.</p> <p>The envisaged activities at this point include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conducting a survey among European youth in order to answer to the question “Why are democratic values losing support among young people?”; - Following the results of the survey, a working plan will be defined in order to address the issue “How to promote democracy among young people?”, which could include the following activities, among others: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Meetings with youth and young adults in order to debate about these topics. Creating “open free arenas” for a healthy dialogue. o Creating a “Credible Knowledge and News Sources” as a counterforce to unreliable/false news on the social media in particular.



Intercultural Communication and Activities

Lead applicant	Jongerenwerk Barkema en de Haan, Netherlands
General goal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Exchange of good practices with partners dealing with intercultural issues in the integration of youngsters with a different cultural background; - Form an overall European method in dealing with intercultural issues, through research.
Specific objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Learn new methods regarding intercultural communication, with a focus on the societal integration of youngsters; - Put a focus on the relationships between professionals and youngsters, among youngsters themselves, and between youngsters and society. - Research what are common and comparable approaches, methods and activities in Europe, to identify key elements of good approaches.
Target group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Youth and Social Organisations working for the integration of youngsters with different cultural backgrounds in Europe.
Main activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Together with the partners, organisation of 4 exchanges of good practices in the 4 different partner countries. - Involvement of students of the University of Applied Sciences, to research on the gathered methods and good practices. They will look for common European key elements and write a final report. - Multiplier event at the end of the project in order to present and disseminate the final report.
Expected Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Exchange of approaches, methods and activities. Exchange of good practices. - A report about good practices and key elements in intercultural communication and activities.
Impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Building up competences and empower social workers within Europe.

Bee a Reason to Smile	
Lead applicant	Jong Goud Slochteren, Netherlands
General goal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fostering the social involvement of young Europeans; - Helping local communities through solidarity-related projects with young people.
Specific objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Organising international youth exchanges; - Implementing solidarity-related activities for the local community with the young participants.
Target group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Young people (16-20 years old) interested in solidarity activities.
Main activities	<p>The youth-led organisation “Young gold Slochteren” organises regular activities with its young participants at the local level in order to encourage and help them to get involved in their society.</p> <p>These range from societal debates to cultural and creative activities (drive-in cinema, graffiti workshops etc) for the youngsters, and include solidarity-related local projects such as organising activities with elderly people in retirement homes or creative workshops with young disadvantaged people.</p> <p>Jong Goud Slochteren is willing to involve young people from abroad through international youth exchanges implementing such activities.</p>



Networking – Education for people with psychological difficulties	
Lead applicant	Centro San Viator, Spain
Objective	Creating a network of schools and training institutes working with children and young people with psychological difficulties.
Target group	Schools and training institutes working with children, young people and adults with psychological difficulties, including behavioural challenges, learning difficulties, mental handicaps.
Main activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Exchanging methods and good practices in the education field with a focus on people with psychological difficulties. - Developing common projects in this field. <p>Centro San Viator is starting to build connections to create an informal network at first, which can lead later on to a more formal founding and/or specific projects among the partners.</p>



New Horizons	
Lead applicant	Medway Youth Trust, United Kingdom
General goal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To develop emotional and social capabilities such as confidence, communication, resilience, teamwork, self-esteem among young people; - To deepen the understanding of the world and broaden attitudes and perspectives among young people; - To develop their entrepreneurial and IT skills.
Specific objectives	<p>For 2 groups of vulnerable young people (from programme countries):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To go to a developing country for 3 weeks to work with the young people in that country to develop and carry out a social action project; - To work together for up to 6 months to plan, prepare and fundraise for the social action project.
Target group	Young disadvantaged people (i.e. marginalised backgrounds; learning difficulties; unemployed; young carer; looked after child; home educated; low income family; health/mental health needs).
Main activities	<p>Up to 6 months prior to 3 week trip:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 4 night exchange between partner countries to start preparing for trip activities; - Programme countries to have fortnightly workshops in addition to fundraising events in order to prepare for the 3 week trip. <p>3 week exchange in a developing country:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Programme and partner country participants come together to plan social action projects for 3 weeks (e.g. delivering IT sessions in local school; developing and delivering assemblies/presentations to deliver key messages to schools/communities (sanitation, hygiene, farming methods); building/painting projects) - Live alongside people in the community to fully understand what it is like to live in the country - 2 -3 educational/cultural visits to understand the history and context of the country. <p>Medway Youth Trust have run previous <i>New Horizons</i> projects. This is an example of a previous New Horizons project to Moldova: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4KLyuy3kcfQ&t=41s</p>
Expected Results	Young people will have a life changing experience by working together to deliver meaningful social action project with young people in developing country. This will benefit the local community as well as the participants.
Impact	<p>Participants will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop social and emotional capabilities (confidence, empathy, resilience, communication, teamwork and leadership); - a deeper and broader understanding of the world and their place in it; - Develop IT and entrepreneurial skills; - Have a positive impact on the local community in the developing country.

Peer-to-Peer Education	
Lead applicant	Centro San Viator , Spain
General goal	To help young people avoiding early school leaving (ESL), bullying and social exclusion by fostering inclusive education, training and youth.
Specific objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To prevent early school leaving, bullying and social exclusion; - To foster inclusive education, training and youth; - To create pedagogical material focused on Peer Guide; - To strengthen key competences in VET curricula; - To promote international and cross-sectorial cooperation, as well as mobility.
Target group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Young people with fewer opportunities, at risk of becoming NEETs. - Teachers, counsellors, trainers, social workers and "Peer Guide" students who need guidance tools to be able to accompany disadvantaged youngsters.
Main activities	<p>Implementation of a methodology based on the peer to peer aid, through the development, piloting and implementing an accredited joint curriculum for mentors (Peer Guide) which includes mentoring skills as a core unit. New pedagogical material will be developed to create a "common box", accessible via website, where anybody will be able to take anything.</p> <p>Fostering a triangle "Peer guide – Professional – Guided young person" where communication flows in any direction among them, with facilitation tools for professionals who themselves will help "Peer guides" and "Guided young persons".</p> <p>Additional networking, dissemination and lobbying activities to create the necessary regulations for this field and increase awareness on the importance of appropriate guidance and counselling.</p>

Youth Empowerment and Resilient Societies (YEARS)	
Lead applicant	Centre for Historical Research in the West (CERHIO), University of Angers, France
General goal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assessing the impact of youth empowerment on societal resilience; - Improving how young people can be active agents in building resilient societies; - Training a network of early-stage researchers in Childhood Studies;
Specific objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Measuring the impact of the EU's social policies and practices and of national laws and regulations related to social inclusion and exclusion, youth unemployment, intergenerational solidarity and youth culture. - Investigating and disseminating good practice across geographical as well as disciplinary and academic/non-academic boundaries. - Bringing scientists together with partners from non-academic organisations - The researchers' direct involvement with children and youth is crucial to the success of the YEARS project: children and youth will be full participants in their research efforts.
Target group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Researchers in the field of Children and Youth Studies - Children and youth (0-18 years old) - Youth organisations, policy makers
Main activities	<p>YEARS will implement an H2020 European Training Network project of 8 beneficiaries and 5 partner organisations from 6 European countries, which will train 11 early-stage researchers (ESRs).</p> <p>The research conducted by these ESRs will include a practical approach: the researchers will receive non-academic training from youth and social organisations, and will be hosted by them in order to have direct access to the field, gathering data from these organisations and from their direct contact with young people.</p>
Expected results	The research will result in deliverables (reports, academic articles, national and international conferences...) that will allow a direct use of the findings by stakeholders and firstly by the associated partners committed to the project.
Impact	<p>Beside its scientific and societal results, the project will structure early-stage research training and thus strengthen European innovation capacity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Through the production and dissemination of new knowledge, and through the completion of their doctoral theses, the ESRs will gain national and international recognition. - The non-academic training received from associated partners will enhance the ESRs' employability, by preparing them to meet the growing need for experts on childhood and youth.





Training on gender sensitive approaches in youth work	
Lead applicant	YES Forum and BAG EJSa, Germany
General goal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Creating and fostering gender-sensitive approaches in youth work across Europe.
Specific objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Explore youth and social workers' own attitudes towards gender issues that they bring to their work and reflect on their own values around gender; - Reflect on the challenges of traditional gender-specific roles and related responsibilities in youth work; - Change mentalities by promoting gender-sensitive work with young people.
Target group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Youth and social practitioners working with young people; - Young people themselves.
Main activities	<p>Gender Sensitivity Training for professionals and young people in an international group.</p> <p>Blended mobility for youth workers to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Explore their own attitudes that they bring to work and to reflect on personal values around gender; - To elaborate/reflect on gender-sensitive approaches applied in their work with young (wo)men, exchange and analysis of practice from other countries involved in the project; - To draw conclusions, to re-design gender conscious approaches applicable in the own organisational and regional context and that meet young (wo)men's needs in transition to adult life. <p>Blended mobility for young people to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inspire their reflection on challenges of traditional gender-specific roles and responsibilities in their lives; - Encourage them to broaden their personal expectations beyond the their gendered stereotypes - Contribute to their personal development. <p>Summing up of experiences and advices in a easy to read guide for gender sensitive approaches in youth work.</p>



YES to Volunteering!

Lead applicant	YES Forum, EU coordination
General goal	- Develop EVS exchanges, and volunteering in general, within the YES Forum Network.
Specific objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop new adapted opportunities for Youngsters with Fewer Opportunities; - Strengthen the capacities of organisations already involved in EVS; - Bring new actors into EVS by training & supporting prospective EVS organisations; - Prepare the transition to the European Solidarity Corps.
Target group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Youngsters with fewer opportunities for the EVS vacancies; - To implement the EVS activities: Experienced EVS organisations, and prospective EVS organisations which would like to get involved in EVS; - To take part to staff trainings: youth/social workers who will be the tutors/mentors of the EVS volunteers in their organisations.
Main activities	<p>Duration: 30 months (February 2018 – July 2020)</p> <p>1 – EVS activities</p> <p>Phase 1: Experienced & Accredited EVS organisations implement EVS activities (>S1 2018)</p> <p>Phase 2: Prospective EVS organisations, after they have received the relevant EVS accreditations thanks to the Staff Trainings, implement EVS activities starting 2019.</p> <p>2 – Staff Trainings</p> <p>Staff Training 1 (2 days): April 2018, Contact-Making Event allowing partners to get to know each other, and starting the training of the prospective EVS organisations.</p> <p>Staff Training 2 (2 days): September/October 2018, will complete the training of the prospective EVS organisations before Phase 2 of the EVS exchanges begins.</p> <p>Staff Training 3 (2 days): September 2019, Contact-Making Event in order to ensure a long-term impact by developing follow-up EVS/volunteering projects.</p>

Annex 1 – Project Planning Meeting Programme

<i>Day 1</i>	
12:00 – 13:00	Registrations and Introduction Lunch
13:00 – 13:15	Welcome by Europa Zentrum Baden-Württemberg and the YES Forum
13:15 – 13:45	“The Creativity-Enhancer” : Introduction of participants and creativity-boosting activities.
13:45 – 14:15	Europa Zentrum’s Input : Presentation of the organisation, its missions and activities, its past and current projects as well as its good practices.
14:15 – 15:15	Posters’ Session : Presentation of the participants’ project ideas.
15:15 – 15:45	Coffee break
15:45 – 17:15	“Caffeine-Induced Session #1” : Working Groups to brainstorm and draft new project ideas.
17:15 – 18:00	“YES Forum: Time to start a family?” : Presentation of the final plans in view of creating a new legal entity, discussions and vote.

<i>Day 2</i>	
9:30 – 10:15	“Beyond Erasmus+” : Presentation of other relevant funding sources at the European level.
10:15 – 11:15	“Caffeine-Induced Session #2” : Working Groups to brainstorm and draft new project ideas.
11:15 – 11:30	Coffee Break
11:30 – 12:30	“Caffeine-Induced Session #3” : Working Groups to brainstorm and draft new project ideas.
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch
13:30 – 14:30	Presentation of the Project
14:30 – 15:00	Conclusions