

# Question



- how many of you are youth workers?
- how many of you have any diploma or certificate as youth worker?
- How many of you know somebody who has formal education in youth work?

# Context – definition of youth work



**Greece, Italy and Spain:** youth work in legislation as part of youth employment & education;

**Netherlands:** leisure-time-oriented youth work is remains less regulated;

**Germany:** "Youth Work offers for young people a support for their development by picking up their interests allowing codetermination, fostering self-definition and encouraging social responsibility and participation."

*\*Source: Youth Partnership of EC & CoE*

# Context: definition of youth work



- Youth Partnership of EC and CoE: “...**out-of-school’ education** and thus linked to non-formal or informal learning;

Definition: The main purpose of youth work is to support young people in the process of becoming **independent**. The youth worker plays an important role in giving and providing support and assists in the **personal, social and educational development** of young people in order to help them to be better prepared to face challenges in life and become **active citizens** in society.

# Context: Good practices



- **Serbia:**

- 3 levels of the professional youth worker have been recognised by Statistical bureau/state:
  1. Assistant in the programmes of youth work
  2. Youth worker
  3. Expert in youth work

\* *Source, NAPOR, 2014.*

# Context: Good practices



## Sweden:

- 9 million inhabitants, 1109 youth clubs;
- 30 % run by NGOs & trained youth workers;
- A vocational training programme for youth workers;
- No focused programme in higher education;
- There are approximately 3,700 recreational leaders in different areas, 50 % employed in municipal leisure and culture agencies;

*\*Source: Youth & Policy, 2014; Torbjorn Forkby & Tomi Kiilakoski*

# Youth work today: a problem



## **Youth work in Europe today:**

- provides many opportunities for young people;
- employs many people working mostly as part-time, periodical/seasonal workers or on voluntary basis;

## **Recognition of qualifications:**

- learning mostly takes place during the job or/and non-formal and informal education;
- youth workers' competencies often have not been formally recognised;
- all this make the mobility of these individuals difficult & access to specific positions in NGOs;

# Youth work – our answer



- 1<sup>st</sup> objective: is to develop **tool** able to validate and certify learning outcomes and qualifications gained through youth work experience (NFE, volunteering, internships, etc.) providing a greater **recognition** to youth work/ers;
- 2<sup>nd</sup> objective: is to provide a chance to youth leaders or workers to receive a **certificate** and in that way foster their employability;

# Title of the project



Certification of the qualifications of youth workers in NGOs – road to a greater recognition of youth work



# Coordination



YEU International works to promote peace, understanding and co-operation between the young people of the world



Youth for Exchange and Understanding

- Founded in 1986;
- A Member of the YFJ;
- In over 30 countries of Europe
- YEU is run by/for young people



EC Lifelong Learning Programme, sub action  
**“Transfer of innovations”**, NA of Portugal;

The aims of the programme are:

- To improve the quality of co-operation between institutions or organisations providing learning opportunities;
- To improve the transparency & recognition of competences, including ones acquired in non-formal and informal learning;

# Objectives of the project



- Establishment of European youth worker's **competence profile** with defined competence areas;
- Adoption and development of a common **methodology** for evaluation and certification of qualifications;
- Adoption and testing **certification process**;
- Go beyond "national" frameworks by creating **European wide** certification tool;

# Activities



- 1. Research** and design of the competences frames of youth workers;
- 2. Methodology** to certify those competences;
- 3. Pilot** phase to test the system;
4. Quality & objective **certification system**;
5. Building a **network** of youth workers around Europe to advocate for recognition;

# Youth workers' profiles



- The profiles of **junior youth worker** & **senior youth worker** strongly connected with European Qualification Framework (EQF);
- **Direct work with the young people** (not including expert in youth policy)
- It consists also areas of expertise & follow successful national practices;

# 8 KEY areas



1. Fostering personal, social and educational **development** of young people;
2. Empowering young people to actively **participate** in society and decision-making processes;
3. Promoting **equality & well-being** of young people;
4. Development of strategies and **policies** to ensure the systematic care for young people and create the conditions for the exercise of their rights;
5. Planning, development and management of **programmes** in YW;
6. Self-management and **management** of teams;
7. Supporting the development of effective, efficient and **ethical** practice in youth work;
8. Promotion of the mobility, **International** cooperation and networking in European context

# Juniors vs. Senior YW



**EQF5:** review and develop performance of self and others;

**EQF6:** take responsibility for managing professional development of individuals and groups;

Junior youth worker:

- have **factual and theoretical knowledge** in a broad context of youth work;
- JYW with higher qualifications should include comprehensive, specialised, factual and theoretical knowledge of youth work (applicable to the 5<sup>th</sup> level of EQF);
- has **ability to supervise** the activities of young people and support their personal development.

# Senior vs. Junior YW



**EQF5:** review and develop performance of self and others;

**EQF6:** take responsibility for managing professional development of individuals and groups

## Senior Youth Worker:

- has **advanced knowledge** of the youth work with a critical understanding of the theories and its principles;
- able to solve complex and unpredictable problems, take a leadership role in projects and decision making processes and finally **innovate**;
- has necessary qualifications to manage professional and social development of young people **including mentoring & counselling** skills.



# Certification tool



**Advisory Boards** (3 members – CSO, Business, Formal ED.) - Guidelines to an independent advisory board when implement certification, 5 main steps:

Methodology/Document of 40 pages:

- (1) CV evaluation & possible interview**
- (2) Online test** (40 questions)
- (3) Case study** (choose either NFE, PCM, Policy task)
- (4) Philosophical statement** (Youth worker's role)
- (5) Interview**

**All certification can be implemented online or face to face!**

*\* CV evaluation: 15%; Philosophy Statement: 30%; Case Study Analysis: 40%; Online Test: 15%*

# Partners



- YEU International
- AEGEE Europe
- Institute of Entrepreneurship Development (Greece)
- M.O.D.A.V.I. Onlus (Italy)
- Krakow University of Economics (Poland)

# Contact



Project website: [www.youth-workers.eu](http://www.youth-workers.eu)

e-mail: [marko@yeu-international.org](mailto:marko@yeu-international.org)

Thank you for your time!