



DJS/EYCB/ENTER/ZL/ZM/2010/027

Strasbourg, 26 April 2010

**ENTER!**

**Access to Social Rights for young people from disadvantaged  
neighbourhoods**

**Expert meeting**

**New ways of participation**  
in multicultural youth work

14 – 18 June 2010  
European Youth Centre, Budapest

**Meeting description**

## The ENTER! Project

Within its work priority “Social Cohesion and Inclusion of Young People”, the Directorate of Youth and Sport of the Council of Europe initiated a two years project to share experiences and develop innovative and effective youth work and youth policy responses to exclusion, discrimination and violence affecting young people in multicultural disadvantaged neighbourhoods.

The project, run with the support of the Flemish Agency of Foreign Affairs, draws on the experience of the Council of Europe youth sector in developing non-formal learning and training of youth workers in order to explore ways of responding to challenges faced by young people and youth work institutions.

The project is being developed with the following objectives in mind:

- To address situations of conflict and exclusion of young people living in multicultural environments through non-formal education and youth work projects;
- To develop conceptual and practical means of translating intercultural dialogue into the realities of youth work;
- To explore and identify means for innovative youth work projects with young people at risk of exclusion and violence;
- To initiate, support and evaluate thirty-five innovative pilot projects with a high multiplier effect across Europe;
- To address situations of exclusion, conflict and violence affecting young people through partnerships between youth work, youth policy and local authorities;
- To consolidate results of the “All different – all equal” European youth campaign in relation to diversity, participation and human rights.

One core element of the ENTER! project is a long-term training course for youth workers/leaders working in disadvantaged neighbourhoods with young people who face difficulties in exercising their social human rights. The course aims at developing their skills and competences in setting up projects for inclusion and in sharing them with colleagues across Europe. The projects of the participants should serve as a basis for a policy recommendations on the access of young people to social rights.

In addition to the training course and its support measures, the project includes seminars and meetings in 2010 and 2011 aimed at complementing the work done with youth workers by deepening specific issues and themes and especially connecting the course and the project with the other priorities of the youth policy agenda of the Council of Europe.

Within this context, and following the work started in previous years on new ways of participation, the Directorate of Youth and Sport is organising an expert meeting on New ways of participation in multicultural youth work with special emphasis on young people in disadvantaged neighbourhoods.

## The framework of the meeting

The Council of Europe is the continent's oldest treaty organisation, founded in 1949 which groups together 47 countries.

The training programme of the Council of Europe's Directorate of Youth and Sport is aimed at promoting the building and strengthening of open and democratic European societies. This programme is based on a philosophy of participation, democracy and intercultural exchange for young people who are in a position to act as "multipliers". The knowledge and experience gained at international seminars and training courses can be used by young people all over Europe.

Youth participation is considered one of the priorities of the Council of Europe's Directorate for Youth and Sport. At local and regional level, active participation of young people in decision making and actions is essential if we are to build more democratic, inclusive and prosperous societies. However, participation in the democratic life of any community is more than voting or standing for election, although these are important elements. Participation and active citizenship is about having the right, the means, the space and the opportunity, and where necessary, the support to participate in and influence decision making and the engagement in actions and activities in order to contribute to building a better society.

In the last few years the Directorate of Youth and Sport has organised a number of training courses on active youth participation, training young people to use and implement the Revised European Charter on the Participation of Young People in Local and Regional Life. In parallel, the publication "Have Your Say!" and an interactive CD-Rom were produced, which provide young people with a youth-friendly version of the Charter and practical activities to promote the Charter: [http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/youth/Coe\\_youth/Youth\\_Participation\\_Charter\\_en.asp#TopOfPage](http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/youth/Coe_youth/Youth_Participation_Charter_en.asp#TopOfPage)

Young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods are often socially excluded and prevented from actively participating in society. Living in suburbs at the periphery of big metropolises, they are equally concerned with globalisation and the impact which media and the transmission of information have on our new lifestyles. New technologies can therefore be a way of ensuring enhanced participation of these young people in various domains.

## Why this meeting?

Young people in today's world are growing up in a connected world of internet access, mobile phones and interactivity – from watching videos on YouTube or spending a lot of time connected to different social networks like Facebook. Most of young people engage in social networking on a daily basis. Thus, new forms of participation are emerging, challenging the well-established forms of participation. Due to technological developments young people have many new opportunities to make their voices heard and participate in society in alternative ways (e.g. online fora, SMS actions, e-democracy, m-democracy). Institutions and organisations are trying to follow these trends, but in many cases these new participation opportunities are also not considered or recognised enough by decision-makers.

The meeting on “new ways of participation in multicultural youth work” follows a seminar on “new ways of youth participation” which took place in 2009, organised by the Directorate of Youth and Sport of the Council of Europe.

This seminar aimed at addressing the new trends in youth participation based on Information and Communication Technologies (ICT), through a constructive exchange of information and practices amongst the main stakeholders in the field of youth participation. As an outcome, participants formulated concrete recommendations addressed to policy makers, researchers and youth organisations. One of the recommendations addressed to policy makers explicitly mentioned the need “to promote e-participation programmes targeting disadvantaged young people and favouring their inclusion”.

The expert meeting should take these recommendations as a starting point to explore how new ways of participation are used in intercultural disadvantaged neighbourhoods and how these can be used to improve youth participation.

## Aim

To bring policy makers, youth researchers, youth organisations and young people together to explore how new ways of participation can contribute to improving the access to social rights of young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods.

## Objectives

- To explore the concepts of youth participation and e-participation;
- To explore current trends of e-participation in multicultural youth work;
- To explore the challenges of inclusive multicultural youth work and how e-participation can be a tool to overcome these;
- To analyse the motivation of young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods for e-participation, as well as the effects of e-participation on their social inclusion and democratic participation;
- To exchange experiences and good practices of e-participation in disadvantaged neighbourhoods;
- To explore ways of overcoming digital divide and ensuring that e-participation is democratic, inclusive, meaningful and empowering for young people;
- To make recommendations on promoting e-participation as a mean to support the access to social rights for young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods.

## Format and Methodology

The expert meeting will bring together 25 participants (policy makers, youth organisations, researchers and young people practising new ways of participation in multicultural disadvantaged neighbourhoods) for three days. The activity will be based on the principles of non-formal education. The meeting is designed as a mutual learning situation, where participants can compare different approaches to “e-participation”. The programme of the meeting will provide space for individual as well as group reflection and debate, encourage exchange of best practices, group-work, theoretical inputs and will help to create the theoretical and practical framework in which participants will reflect upon existing participation projects and structures based on Information and Communication Technologies (ICT). In addition, participants will explore how they can develop their practices further, make recommendations and create synergies among each others’ work.

## Working Language

The working languages will be English and French.

## Participants' Profile

The course is aimed at youth workers and social workers, active members of youth organisations, as well as at young people not being part of youth organisations, youth researchers and policy makers, practicing participation based on the use of Information and Communication Technologies.

Applicants should have a specific practical experience in “e-participation”. Priority will be given to candidates who are, or intend to be, part of participation projects, involving Information and Communication Technologies, in disadvantaged neighbourhoods.

All applicants must:

- be aged between 18 and 30 years (does not apply for policy-makers and researchers)
- be actively involved in multicultural youth participation projects based on Information and Communication Technologies, preferably working with disadvantaged youth;
- be prepared to explain their “e-activities” to the other participants
- be able to work in English and/or French
- be committed to attend the full duration of the meeting

## Arrival and departure

The expert meeting will last from 15<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> June 2010. Participants should arrive on 14<sup>th</sup> June and leave on 18<sup>th</sup> June.

## Financial and practical conditions of participation

### Participation fee

Participation in the meeting is free of charge.

### Travel expenses

Travel expenses and visa fees (on presentation of the relevant receipts) are reimbursed according to the rules of the Directorate of Youth and Sport. Only participants who have attended the entire meeting can be reimbursed. Payments will be made either by bank transfer after the course, or at the end of the seminar in cash in Euros.

### Accommodation

Board and lodging are provided and paid for by the Directorate of Youth and Sport at the European Youth Centre Budapest.

## Programme

The programme of the meeting will be developed by a team of trainers and professionals working with young people and using new technologies. It will be communicated to participants at a later stage.

## Registration procedure

Interested participants should send back the following registration form to Nicoleta Dumitru: [nicoleta.dumitru@coe.int](mailto:nicoleta.dumitru@coe.int)

All registrations should be sent latest on **Sunday 16th May 2010.**



## REGISTRATION FORM

### New ways of participation in multicultural youth work

### Expert meeting

**14-18 June 2010, European Youth Centre Budapest**

:

<b>1. First name and surname</b>		
Sex: <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female      Age:      Nationality:		
Country of Residence:		
<b>2. Working languages</b> (please tick <u>all</u> of the languages in which you are able to work):		
<input type="checkbox"/> English <input type="checkbox"/> French		
<b>3. Contacts</b> – Please note all correspondence will be sent to this address – please ensure it is complete.		
Postal address(street, number, city, postal code, country):		
Telephone:		Fax: -
Mobile telephone:		e-mail:
<b>4. Have you any special needs or requirements (e.g. dietary, disability, etc.)</b>		
<b>5. Visas</b>		
Will you need a visa for Hungary? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If yes, please indicate:		
<b>Date of birth:</b>	<b>Passport No.:</b>	<b>Issued at:</b>
<b>Place of birth:</b>	<b>Date of expiry:</b>	<b>Place:</b>
<b>6. Which of the following best describes your function/role/profession</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> volunteer	<input type="checkbox"/> employee	<input type="checkbox"/> board member (elected)
<input type="checkbox"/> youth worker	<input type="checkbox"/> civil servant	<input type="checkbox"/> researcher
<input type="checkbox"/> policy maker	<input type="checkbox"/> other (Please specify):	
<b>7. I am available to attend the full duration of the meeting</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		

Please send the form back to Nicoleta Dumitru: [Nicoleta.dumitru@coe.int](mailto:Nicoleta.dumitru@coe.int)  
Deadline for registration: **Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2010**