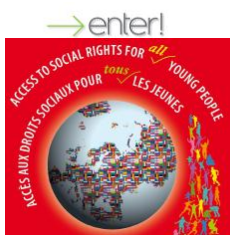




# The State of Youth Work: Exploring the Future of Youth Work and Young People's Access to Social Rights

Leicester, United Kingdom, 15 – 16 November 2012

Draft programme and seminar concept



Seminar organised with the support of the Council of Europe in the framework of the Enter! project: Promoting Access to Social Rights for All Young People

## **14 November 2012**

*Arrival of participants from abroad*

## **15 November 2012**

9:00 Registration of participants

9:30 Opening, introduction to the seminar and welcome remarks

Seminar Convener – Momodou Sallah

De Montfort University (TBC)

Mara Georgescu – Youth Department of the Council of Europe

Joanne Hunting – Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe

Noreen Zahida – Global Hands

10:00 Keynote input on the role of national youth policy in promoting youth work (TBC)

Questions and answers

10:30 Keynote input on the role of the youth policy of the Council of Europe in promoting social rights for young people – Thierry Dufour, representative of the French-speaking community of Belgium in the Follow-up group of the Enter! project

Questions and answers

11:00 – 11:30 Tea/Coffee break

11:30 – 13:00 Round table discussion regarding the state of youth work, with:

National Youth Agency (TBC)

Pauline Grace (Newman University College, University of Birmingham) and Tania de St Croix (Voice of Youth) In Defence of Youth Work

Tony Gallagher, HMI National Adviser (Youth Support)

13:00 – 14:00 Lunch break

14:00 – 14:30 Youth work and access to social rights

Keynote input by Kevin O'Kelly

14:30 Working groups on the role and current developments of different actors in promoting access to social rights for young people

Working group 1: Local, regional and national authorities

Working group 2: The voluntary sector

Working group 3: European institutions

Working group 4: Research/Higher Education Institutes

16:00 Tea/Coffee break

16:30 Plenary reporting from the working groups and discussion

Conclusions of the day

17:30 Networking space among seminar participants

## **16 November 2012**

9:30 Introduction of the day

9:45 Different young people at the margins: how do we engage with them? How do they access social rights?

Keynote input by Carlton Howson, De Montfort University

Good practices on local authorities' commitment to social rights: the case of Nottingham – Eunice Campbell-Clarke, City Councillor and Member of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities

10:30 – 11:10 Workshops on good practices

11:10 Break

11:30 Working groups on proposals for the future of youth work at local, regional, national and international levels

Working group 1: Local, regional and national authorities

Working group 2: The voluntary sector

Working group 3: European institutions

Working group 4: Research/Higher Education Institutes

13:00 Lunch break

14:00 Reporting from the working groups

Plenary discussions on the follow-up of the seminar

16:00 Coffee/Tea break

16:30 Support mechanisms of the Council of Europe for the recognition and support of youth work

17:00 Conclusions by the rapporteur of the seminar

17:20 Closing remarks

Sergio Belfor – representative of the Advisory Council on Youth of the Council of Europe

Global Hands (TBC)

Sarah Hargreaves (TBC) – De Montfort University

18:00 Reception

*Departure of participants*

## **Seminar Concept**

This seminar is an opportunity to explore the current state of youth work and work with young people in the national reality as well as its direction of travel. It is an opportunity for dialogue between the different perspectives on youth work and work with young people; academics, practitioners, policy makers and young people to debate and construct a new direction of travel in a state of flux.

Additionally, given the status quo in relation to particular groups of young people who are disadvantaged and excluded in the United Kingdom particularly and in Europe in general (Sallah and Howson 2007<sup>1</sup>; Titley and Lentin 2008<sup>2</sup>; Değirmencioğlu 2011<sup>3</sup>), it is critical at a time that youth work/work with young people is at a juncture that we hold this seminar to forge a path that optimally promotes young people's access to social rights. This seminar is jointly organised by the Youth, Community and Education Department of De Montfort University, The Council of Europe and Global Hands.

## **The Youth, Community and Education Department of De Montfort University**

The Youth, Community and Education Division is located within the School of Applied Social Sciences and Faculty of Health and Life Sciences, it combines the subject areas of Youth and Community Development and Education Studies. This brings together expertise on children, young people and social justice. The Division is committed to education through formal and informal learning by children and young people and to equality and diversity through all its work.

The Youth and Community staff have a track record of expertise and experience in applied research that seeks to influence and extend the theory, policy and practice of work with young people and communities. We work with public sector, voluntary, faith-based and community-based organisations, government departments and research bodies, which have an interest in services for young people. This research focuses on young people's worlds, needs and aspirations; the environments which shape their lives and which, in turn, they influence. It also examines the approaches and policies which affect who they are, who they will become, and what they do now and in the future.

Youth and Community at De Montfort University are one of the United Kingdom's leading providers of high quality professional training in youth and community work, delivering vibrant, creative and high quality teaching and learning programmes that aim to develop a critical understanding of the theory, policy and practice of working with young people and communities.

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<sup>1</sup> Sallah, M. & Howson, C. (Eds.) Working with Black Young People. Lym Regis: Russell House Publishing

<sup>2</sup> Titley, G. and Lentin, L. (2008) The politics of diversity in Europe. Strasbourg: Council of Europe Publishing

<sup>3</sup> Değirmencioğlu, S. M. (Ed.) (2011) Some still more equal than others? Or equal opportunities for all? Strasbourg: Council of Europe Publishing

## **The work of the Council of Europe**

For the Council of Europe, social cohesion is firmly based on human rights (as codified in the European Convention on Human Rights and the Revised European Social Charter) as well as an acceptance of shared responsibility for the welfare of all members of society, especially those who are at risk of poverty or exclusion. In line with this, the youth policy of the Council of Europe aims at “providing young people with equal opportunities and experience which enable them to develop knowledge, skills and competencies to play a full part in all aspects of society”<sup>4</sup>.

Youth work is key to engaging young people to access their social human rights. The Council of Europe recommendations on youth work and non-formal education, as well as the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities resolution 319(2010) on the integration of young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods have reaffirmed the importance of youth work in the access to social rights for young people.

The Enter! project, initiated by the Council of Europe in 2009, pointed out that youth work is key for the empowerment of young people that experience disadvantage and live situations of exclusion, discrimination and violence. The main concerns that informed the project were the multi-dimensional social and economic imbalances associated with young people living in disadvantaged neighbourhoods and which put them at a disadvantage in accessing social human rights. The methodology of the project sought alternative ways of thinking and practising youth work, starting from the involvement of young people themselves, relying on the competent action of youth workers and youth organisations and seeking medium and long-term impact through youth policies at local and national level.

Currently, the social and economic landscape in Europe shows how vulnerable youth and social policies are to economic fluctuations and how social exclusion and related phenomena, as segregation, “scape-goating” of minority groups, violence and discrimination, lack of jobs for young people, as well as a constant deterioration of social policy responses, can persist and grow in a climate of ever growing precariousness and permanent economic crisis.

Enter! aims at promoting access to social rights for young people, in particular of those exposed to social exclusion, discrimination and violence, through a variety of local, national and European interventions involving policy-makers, youth work actors and young people.

## **Global Hands**

Global Hands is a young Leicester-based non-profit, social enterprise set up in early 2012. Setup as a Community Interest Company, Global Hands aims to tackle issues regarding local and global inequality by raising consciousness about local and global issues through community engagement. Additionally, Global Hands is interested in supporting people build their capacities to address these issues.

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4 Committee of Ministers Resolution CM/Res(2008)23 on the youth policy of the Council of Europe

Global Hands engages communities through informal and non-formal methodologies to provoke their consciousness leading to an action they choose that is commensurate to their abilities. Global Hands presently delivers its objects through: Education and Public Engagement; Global Hands Publishing; Global Hands Youth; Global Youth Work; Skills bank.

## **Aims and Objectives of the Seminar**

The seminar will aim:

- to explore the current state of youth work in the United Kingdom, particularly exploring the role of youth work in facilitating the access of young people to rights;
- to introduce participants to the work of the Council of Europe in the area of young people's access to social rights, particularly the Enter! project;
- to explore how youth work/work with young people can continue to effectively engage young people at the margins to access their social rights, by providing guidelines for the future developments in youth work in the United Kingdom and for the Council of Europe, particularly for the Enter! project ;
- to generate a greater understanding of the issues that affect young people's access to social rights (race, class, gender, disadvantaged neighbourhoods etc.);
- to provide a space to share good practices and network among different stakeholders from the United Kingdom and other Council of Europe members states.

## **Seminar Methodology**

Over the two days of the seminar, a range of engagement tools will be utilised including recognised experts to deliver keynote speeches, workshops facilitated by participants and papers, exploring specific themes to be also delivered by participants. A lot of emphasis would be put on group work and participants are expected to identify specific issues and come up with concrete proposals that will influence policy and practice. A reporter will also be appointed to capture the main discussion of the seminar and to write a final report upon its conclusion.

## **Participants' Profile**

The seminar will bring together a representative sample of 50 practitioners, academics, policy makers and young people who have an interest/stake in work with young people/youth work and access to social rights. These participants will be sourced from a wide range of voluntary, statutory and representatives from local authorities as well as political authorities at the national levels. Representatives of various higher education institutions will also be invited to attend. The Council of Europe will be represented, mainly by the youth sector representatives and representatives of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities.

It is also important to note that invited participants are expected to have the following profile:

- Be a representative of an organisation/institution and be in a position to take back recommendations;

- Be involved in youth work/work with young people and linked with young people's access to social rights;
- Be able to work in English;
- Available for the whole two days.

## **Practical and Financial conditions**

### *Timetable*

The seminar will begin with a registration on Thursday the 15<sup>th</sup> of November and finish at 19:00 on Friday the 16<sup>th</sup> of November 2012.

Participants who are travelling from outside the United Kingdom or live very far from Leicester should arrange their travel in order to arrive in Leicester on the evening of Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> November and depart in the evening of Friday 16<sup>th</sup> November or Saturday the 17<sup>th</sup> November.

### *Venue and accommodation*

The seminar will take place at the Innovation Centre/De Montfort University.

Accommodation and meals will be provided by hosting organisation.

### *Travel and subsistence expenses*

Travel expenses to and from Leicester will be reimbursed under De Montfort University rules.

## **Expected results of the seminar**

- Participants to make recommendations to policy makers (local, national and European level) and practitioners on how to improve work with young people on the margins and how they can be supported to access their social rights;
- A comprehensive report that will summarise the issues raised by the participants as well as capture the recommendations to the various stakeholders;
- A critical interrogation of youth policy and practice in the United Kingdom that will influence the direction of travel for youth work in an environment that is said to be in a state of flux;
- Increased awareness of the Council of Europe's work on access to social rights and the possibility for the seminar participants to be associated with the work of the Council of Europe in the Enter! project;
- A greater understanding of the issues that affect young people's access to social rights through a critical analysis of status quo and the capturing of case studies;
- Sharing of good practice nationally and internationally;
- Each participating organisation/institution to make a commitment to explore and where possible implement recommendations.
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## **Contact person**

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