

# SUMMARY OF THE GENERAL RAPPOORTEUR

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CONSULTATIVE MEETING

ON A COUNCIL OF EUROPE YOUTH SECTOR STRATEGY FROM 2020 TO 2030

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*The opinions expressed in this work are the responsibility of the author and do not necessarily reflect the official policy of the Council of Europe, its member states or the organisations co-operating with them.*



# VALUES FOR MONEY

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IDEAS CONTRIBUTING TO THE NEXT COUNCIL OF EUROPE YOUTH STRATEGY

# WHERE HAVE WE COME FROM?

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- Antje:
- What is the strategy for?
- How will the strategy be used?
- Who will use the strategy?
- Balancing continuity and change with the main aim: promoting common European standards in human rights, democracy and the rule of law

# SHAREHOLDERS – INVESTMENT AND RETURN

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- Leaving happy/unhappy
- “So long as there is equal recognition, respect and contribution”
- “So long as the outcomes are [not] incomprehensible to anyone outside
- Need to keep a focus on ESSENTIALS
- Dream big but inclusively
- We may occupy BUBBLES of different sizes, but we are actually all inside one big bubble and we need to look beyond: the external environment of young people, the institutions of the youth sector, and those who may be looking in.....

# AGENDA 2020

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- Content
- Three priorities
- Seven core goals
- Democratic partnership; Lived commitment; Youth policy; Inter-institutional engagement; Evidence-base; Advocating quality; Mainstreaming – A VERY USEFUL LIST
- BUT nothing relating to OUTCOMES AND IMPACT

# ACHIEVEMENTS AND SHORTCOMINGS

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- Huge list of celebration and some concerns
- SUMMARY
- Significant and laudable development and innovation within a flexible framework
- But perhaps too closed
- Concerns about political engagement and championship
- Collaborative limitations
- Questions marks about cascading to national and local levels

# THE CURRENT CONTEXT

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- The socio-political circumstances of young people in Europe
- Internal developments within the Council of Europe
- The wider institutional and professional landscape
  
- Risk and Opportunity
- Diversity and Complexity
- Potential and Danger

# THREE CIRCLES

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- Precarity of youth (but perhaps new ways of experiencing, seeing and engaging with the world) – trust and representation; labour markets; identity and belonging; climate change; digitalisation
- CoE: budget, more synergies required, arguable a reduced commitment to a (progressive) youth agenda. “The Council of Europe will be limited to conventional work and monitoring”
- The youth sector is now a *market*, with more players and competitors (whereas the Youth Department is “not here to monopolise knowledge but to produce and share it”)



# ADDED VALUE? **DISTINCTION**

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- What are the 'core competences' of the Youth Department?
- Defining its role, contribution and key function?
- The youth sector 'market' has expanded, competition has intensified, marketing has become more polished
- What is the 'added value' of the work of the Youth Department?
- What does the YD do that is difficult to imitate, emulate and deliver?
- What advances its particular claim to resources and support?

# IT IS NOT 1990 ANY MORE

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- The theoretical context of young lives has changed – post-modernity, capability, inequality, navigational capacities, agency, exclusion, inequality, social dislocation (psycho-social disorders).....
- The political context of our work has changed – strong man Europe, the rise of the right, the refugee crisis, securing and terrorism, receptivity to our agendas
- The empirical context of our work has changed – youth work practice, partnerships, wider policy targets, resource constraint, doing things differently
- IT IS ALL MORE COMPLICATED – CHALLENGE AND CHANGE

# WHAT DOES THE YOUTH DEPARTMENT DO DIFFERENTLY?

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- Collaboration
  - Consistency
  - Coherence
  - Capacity-building
  - Quality
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- PROVE IT! Does anybody notice? Are people aware?

# DEFENDING AND ADVOCATING OUR CORNER

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- A distinctive process and culture
  - Strong chains of learning and development
  - Deep roots with quality standards
  - Consultation and Collaboration
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- Bringing European states into closer association (Council of Europe statute Article 1)

# WHAM! – WINNING HEARTS AND MINDS

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- Dealing with new Expectations regarding evidence of outcome and impact (the ‘social return on investment’ agenda)
- Communicating the importance of quality and depth
- Re-emphasising the role of Youth Department activities in cementing the core values of the Council of Europe
- A Theory of Change demands working backwards from explicit anticipated impact, and being able to articulate and explain the ‘miracles’ along the way
- We can no longer dwell in an ‘intellectual comfort zone’ or ‘rest on our laurels’

# TESTING AND CHALLENGING ASSUMPTIONS - THE NEED FOR ADVOCACY AND EVIDENCE

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- Human Rights Education
- Quality
- Co-management
- Representativeness (reach)
- Multipliers
- Knowledge production
- Cascading to national and local levels

# THE MATRIX 1 – HUMAN RIGHTS MAINTENANCE, DEVELOPMENT & INNOVATION

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- Maintenance: Access to social rights, gender equality, anti-racism, young people with fewer opportunities, diversity; participatory development of knowledge; Human Rights Education, anti-hate speech, human dignity, coherence of values and action
- Development: Guidelines for civil participation in decision-making; young refugees and asylum-seekers, vulnerable groups, protecting and promoting human rights on-line, peace-building, cyber-hygiene, well-being and reproductive rights, freedoms; knowledge on media literacy, internet governance, protection of rights
- Innovation: Well-being and health of young people, belonging, SDGs and climate change, enabling environments for civil society; artificial intelligence, human rights education in non-democratic societies, links with formal education; —



# THE MATRIX 2 – EUROPE

## MAINTENANCE, DEVELOPMENT & INNOVATION

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- IDEALS AND VALUES; PEACEFUL AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES; INTRA-CONTINENTAL PERSPECTIVE; GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE
- Maintenance: Support measures and building inclusive societies, intercultural dialogue; resources; for open source materials; programmes of Youth Centres and Youth Foundation
- Development: challenging populism, digital security, transition to adulthood for vulnerable groups; knowledge on digital security; peace, citizenship, intercultural learning, inclusion, terrorism, extremism
- Innovation: Intra-continental perspective, exchange with other continents, European identity, solidarity, inter-generational interaction, common values, alternative ways of living and youth well-being



# THE MATRIX 3 – DEMOCRACY MAINTENANCE, DEVELOPMENT & INNOVATION

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- FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION, PARTICIPATION, SOCIAL COHESION, ADVOCACY, DECISION-MAKING, INCLUSION, REPRESENTATION, DIGITAL LITERACY, EDUCATION FOR DEMOCRATIC CITIZENSHIP, CRISIS FOR DEMOCRACY AND ISMS, SHRINKING SPACE FOR CIVIL SOCIETY, CORRUPTION
- Maintenance: legal and political instruments, co-management, EKCYP, PEYR, EYF, Quality Label; national action, campaigns and flagship events, training programme
- Development: support measures at national and regional level, co-management, internet governance, representation of under-represented groups; situation of youth association, freedom of association; youth participation; neighbouring regions, advocacy, education for democracy, EU project co-operation
- Innovation: digital citizenship, democratic youth participation; pilot policy projects; climate change & SDGs, conflict transformation, peaceful societies, youth in non-democratic societies, young people who are 'NEET' (Europe-wide surveys), artificial intelligence, MOOCs



# A STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK INTO WHICH OUR CONTENT THINKING COULD FIT

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- INTRODUCTION – continuity (Agenda 2020) and change (three core challenges)
- THE CHANGING SOCIO-POLITICAL CONDITION OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN EUROPE - relevance
- WORKING TOGETHER – Collaboration at the heart (but need to open doors further)
- A EUROPEAN AND LOCAL STRATEGY – designed for multiplier and cascade effects
- A SHARED CONTEXT FOR DEVELOPMENT? - inter-institutional relations; partners, allies and perceived competitors
- THE YOUTH DEPARTMENT'S PLACE IN EUROPE TODAY – a distinctive market share
- HOW AND WHERE WE DO OUR WORK – methodology and instruments
- HARNESSING THE POWER OF OUR COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE



# THEMATIC TERRAIN - WHAT IS THE GROUND WE NEED TO WORK ON?

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- MAINTAIN?
  - Access to social rights; human rights education, youth policy, vulnerable groups and democratic participation, peace, hate speech
- DEVELOP?
  - Digital citizenship, European citizenship, space for civil society, specific target groups (refugees, unaccompanied migrants), gender equality
- INNOVATE?
  - SDGs, internet governance and digital security; young people's changing lifeworlds; participation in non-democratic contexts, inter-regional and global perspectives

# TAKING ACTION & CHARTING SUCCESS

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- A WORK PLAN FOR THE YOUTH SECTOR OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE
- IDENTIFYING PRIMARY STRATEGIC AIMS (cf. reach; impact; quality)
- STRATEGIC INITIATIVES ON THE THEMATIC TERRAIN (within and across human rights, Europe and democracy / knowledge, policy and practice)
- MEASURING SUCCESS (data collection, indicators and performance measures)