



DJS/Enter! Congress (2011) 7

Strasbourg, 19 May 2011



Access to Social Rights for Young People
from Disadvantaged Neighbourhoods

Enter! Youth Meeting

Access to Social Rights for ^{all} young people

European Youth Centre Strasbourg, 14 – 18 September 2011

Background

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-year 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 Enter! project on the access to social rights for young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods was set up in response to the growing concern and attention of the European Steering Group on Youth (CDEJ) and the Advisory Council on Youth (CCJ), the governmental and non-governmental partners of the youth sector of the Council of Europe, to matters of social cohesion and inclusion of young people.

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.

Enter! aims at developing youth policy responses to exclusion, discrimination and violence affecting young people in multicultural disadvantaged neighbourhoods. It is rooted in the overall philosophy of youth work and youth policy of the Council of Europe, which takes into account:

- the role of non-formal learning and youth work in supporting the autonomy of young people
- social inclusion and social cohesion as important dimension of sustainable democratic societies
- citizenship, participation and the agency of young people in matters concerning them
- an intercultural learning dimension to diversity based on the understanding of universal human rights (all different-all equal).

Enter! project objectives

The objectives of the project have been defined as:

- 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 up to thirty 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.

Enter! combined different types of activities and youth interventions which, while rooted in the realities of young people and based on youth work practice, seek to influence youth policies in Europe from the local to the national level.

The framework for the Enter! Youth Meeting

One core element of the Enter! project was the long-term training course (LTTC) for youth workers/leaders working in disadvantaged neighbourhoods with young people who face difficulties in exercising their social human rights. The course, whose last seminar was organised in May 2011, aimed at developing their skills and competences in setting up projects for inclusion and in sharing them with colleagues across Europe.

During the course, the participants developed their skills and competencies in setting up projects for integration and in sharing them with colleagues across Europe. Participants also developed specific projects with young people, based on active participation, intercultural learning and human rights education, and also addressed specific challenges in their access to social rights. These projects provide the practical basis for learning about how to promote the social rights of young people and how best to use youth research for youth policy action.

Three expert seminars complemented the long-term training course and provided relevant insights for a youth policy recommendation, namely the Seminar on Gender Equality in Youth Projects (Strasbourg, June 2010), a Consultative Meeting on Youth Information and Counselling (Budapest, June 2010), the Seminar on New Ways of Participation in Multicultural Youth Work (Budapest, June 2010). A joint conference was held together with the Directorate General of Social Cohesion of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg in July 2010, within its project on Social Mobility.

The experiences provided by the practice of the LTTC participants' projects and the insights gained through the seminars are the basis for the policy recommendations and guidelines to be prepared by an expert group in 2011. To this end, a seminar on access of young people to social rights – the youth policy approaches took place in December 2010 and built further on the conclusions of the various activities of the project and identified the areas for youth policy recommendations.

In 2011, an expert group has been composed to prepare and finalise the policy guidelines and prepare a draft recommendation by the Committee of Ministers on access to social rights of young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods. The expert group held their first meeting in May 2011.

Within this context, the involvement of young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods in the project is now foreseen in a large-scale event – the Enter! Youth Meeting – through which young people from across Europe will meet, provide input to and feedback on the policy recommendations and further discuss access to social rights from a youth perspective. The meeting is planned as an opportunity for young people to develop their intercultural skills and to plan or initiate their own activities.

Enter! Youth Meeting – aims and objectives

The Enter! Youth Meeting is an international three-day meeting gathering some 180 young people, youth workers, youth researchers, policy makers and representatives of the project partners with the aim to provide them with the opportunity and the space to voice their opinions, and share their experiences about access to social rights in Europe as a contribution to the development of youth policies in the Council of Europe.

The Enter! Youth Meeting will be an innovative event for the youth sector of the Council of Europe, as it will bring directly young people from local youth projects aimed at improving the access of young people to social rights. These projects have been developed as an integral part of the Enter! LTTC and built on the quality criteria set for ensuring sustainable improvement in the situation of young people in disadvantaged neighbourhoods.

The objectives of the Meeting are:

- to share realities and collect experiences of young people affected by the issues of violence, exclusion and discrimination in disadvantaged neighbourhoods
- to engage young people into dialogue with the Council of Europe and discuss together the issue of access to social rights for young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods
- to create opportunities for the participants to learn about social rights in Europe by associating the event with the 50th anniversary of the European Social Charter
- to take stock of the experience of young people involved in the projects run within Enter! long-term training course as a contribution to the planning of the second phase of the Enter! project
- to discuss priority areas of intervention of youth policy on access to social rights for young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods
- to provide input to draft policy recommendations for the Committee of Ministers on access to social rights of young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods.

The Enter! Youth Meeting will be organised in co-operation with the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, the Secretariat of the European Social Charter, and Directorate General of Social Cohesion.

Enter! Youth Meeting – format and methodology

The Youth Meeting will ensure the continuity of other activities developed in the framework of the Enter! project, as young people invited to the meeting will be mainly participants from the youth projects previously developed by the Enter! LTTC participants, that is to say the main actors addressed by the whole Enter! project.

The meeting will build on the previous experiences of the youth sector of the Council of Europe with the European Youth Weeks (up to 200 or 300 participants) of which the last one was held in 1995 and the symposia traditionally held at the European Youth Centres in Strasbourg and Budapest.

The meeting is designed as an intercultural learning situation providing chances for everyone to fully participate and contribute to all programme elements. During the meeting participants will have an opportunity to exchange their experiences and built upon previous results for a common identification of the main priorities to be taken to a policy level.

The programme of the meeting will provide space for individual as well as group reflection and debate and will encourage exchange of practices. It will specifically have a youth dimension and will use inclusive methods and approaches to young people's input for the policy recommendation, while involving other actors in the process as well.

Outcomes

The main expected outcome of the Youth Meeting is the feedback and input participants will provide for the development of the policy recommendation to be finalised by the expert group. The involvement of young people in this process is also a key feature of the event.

Moreover, other outcomes envisaged are:

- a message to the Council of Europe on access to social rights of young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods

- a video film or message to other Council of Europe institutions
- a report / documentary
- possibly follow-up projects developed by the participants

Participants

The Enter! Youth Meeting will bring together some 180 young people from the projects developed by the Enter! LTTC participants, local young people from Strasbourg, facilitators/youth workers, resource persons, together with experts, researchers and representatives of the project partners.

Most young people will be recruited from among those who have been involved in the projects of the Enter! LTTC participants. A limited number of young people will be invited, particularly from countries that are not represented by the Enter! LTTC participants, for example: Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Georgia, Hungary, Iceland, Lichtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Montenegro, Slovenia, The Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Romania, San Marino, Slovak Republic, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey and Ukraine.

Participants should have the following profile:

- be preferably aged 16 to 20¹
- have been a participant, volunteer or peer educator/leader in a youth project addressing the issues of violence, exclusion and/or discrimination in disadvantaged neighbourhoods (for the Enter! LTTC participants it should be young people participating in their local projects run within the Enter! LTTC)
- have been affected by the issues of violence, exclusion or discrimination in their neighbourhood
- preferably speak English or French at a basic level.

Draft Programme structure

<i>Wednesday 14 September:</i>	Arrival of participants
<i>Thursday 15 September:</i>	Opening session; group building, exploring realities
<i>Friday 16 September:</i>	Feed-back and inputs to the recommendation
<i>Saturday 17 September:</i>	Proposals for follow-up by the Council of Europe – “message” to the Committee of Ministers; closing session
<i>Sunday 18 September:</i>	Departure of participants

How to apply?

Applications from the countries above-mentioned must be submitted using the application form available online at this address: <http://youthapplications.coe.int/>.

¹ The age limit for the participants of the activities organised by the Directorate of Youth and Sport of the Council of Europe is 30 years. However, due to the nature of this event, priority will be given to young people aged between 16 and 20.

The application should be made on behalf of the organisation by the youth worker who will assist and accompany young people coming to the Enter! Youth Meeting. Organisations can propose up to 2 young people and one youth worker to participate in the event. Only organisations from Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Georgia, Hungary, Iceland, Lichtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Montenegro, Slovenia, The Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Romania, San Marino, Slovak Republic, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey and Ukraine are eligible to apply.

The participants will be selected by the Council of Europe secretariat and the preparatory group for the Enter! Youth Meeting.

Deadline: 4 July 2011

Further information

More information on the Enter! Project can be found at www.coe.int/enter.

If you have questions about the Enter! Youth Meeting, please contact Dariusz Grzemny in the European Youth Centre Strasbourg at Dariusz.GRZEMNY@coe.int.