



Seminar for National Youth Councils on Access to Social Rights for Young People

29 – 31 October 2013
European Youth Centre Strasbourg, France

SEMINAR DOCUMENTATION

Enter! **Promoting Access to Social Rights for All Young People**

A project by the Youth Department of the Council of Europe aimed at promoting access to social rights for young people, in particular of those exposed to social exclusion, discrimination and violence

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Introduction

The seminar for National Youth Councils on Access to Social Rights for Young People took place at the European Youth Centre Strasbourg on 29 – 31 October 2013, in the framework of the Council of Europe's Youth Department project entitled 'Enter! Promoting Access to Social Rights for All Young People'.

The seminar brought together 25 representatives of youth councils and youth workers involved in the Enter! project from 19 countries.

It aimed to increase the expertise of National Youth Councils in using the framework of access to social rights for young people to advocate for and develop policies and programmes. It invited National Youth Councils to facilitate collaboration between youth work practitioners, people responsible for policy formulation at various levels and researchers and experts in the field of social rights.

The main outcomes of the seminar were as follows:

- Participants had the opportunity to learn about the Council of Europe's work on social rights, the Revised European Social Charter and its monitoring instruments. They discussed possibilities for youth organisations and youth councils to use existing legal and communication paths to advocate for human rights, in general, and for the social rights of young people, specifically. In particular, they received information about the collective complaints and reporting mechanisms of the European Social Charter, third party interventions at the European Court for Human Rights and collaboration with the Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe.
- Participants increased their knowledge and understanding on the situation of particular social groups of young people – youth with disabilities, young Roma population, young migrants and young people discriminated or excluded on the ground of gender – through thematic workshops.
- Participants discussed challenges that young people experience in accessing social rights across European countries, they shared examples of good practice and learned from each other's experiences. They further discussed and identified ways that youth councils can better lobby for the access to social rights of young people.
- Participants reflected on opportunities as well as challenges for youth councils to engage directly in dialogue with young people that face exclusion, discrimination and live on a daily basis in situations where they do not have access to their rights.
- The seminar was a space for learning about the rights-based approach to policy development, which encourages youth organisations, including youth councils, to develop their policies and advocacy tools on the basis of human rights principles.
- Representatives of the national youth councils present had many opportunities to plan follow-up activities, which will mainly involve disseminating knowledge about social rights, advancing communication with member organisations, cooperation with other institutions like public authorities, businesses, experts and researchers and other NGOs doing youth work. Participants also discussed various ways to mainstream work with people with disabilities into the programmes of youth councils.

The evaluation confirmed appreciation for this kind of seminar and sent a strong message about the need for closer links between the reality of national youth councils and youth work and policy development. It also confirmed that such events would significantly benefit from having more time available for in-depth discussion and networking.

List of acronyms

CDEJ	The European Steering Committee on Youth of the Council of Europe
ECHR	The European Convention on Human Rights (Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms)
ECSR	European Committee for Social Rights, Council of Europe
ESC	European Social Charter
NYC	National Youth Council
RBA	Rights-based approach
YFJ	European Youth Forum

Background to the seminar

Many young people in Europe experience situations of exclusion, discrimination and violence, in their transition to adulthood. Often, these multi-dimensional forms of vulnerability mark young people's present and future, and have long-lasting effects. Beyond any doubt, they require policy makers to take action in order to ensure all young people have access to their rights.

Youth workers and youth organisations are commonly at the forefront of projects designed to provide alternative non-formal education and leisure time activities, counter discrimination and exclusion of young people, promote participation and citizenship, often with the aim of easing social tensions.

National, regional and local authorities, as well as other governmental agencies and institutions, also have a significant role to play when it comes to ensuring young people's access to their social rights. In many places in Europe, ensuring access to social rights comes under the remit of governmental agencies whose responsibilities have been devolved from central government to the local level. Very often, youth workers and local and regional authorities have complementary roles in their work on access to social rights for and with young people.

Representative structures of youth organisations have a key role in advancing the policy work on social inclusion of young people and social rights. National Youth Councils are very important fora in this respect. Through co-operation platforms, lobbying and advocacy, National Youth Councils can, on the one hand, develop proposals and advocate for them in national policies and, on the other hand, work on setting common goals and proposals with their member organisations. In some cases, in implementing their programmes and activities, National Youth Councils can also reach young people beyond their membership because topics they tackle are of interest to all young people. In this respect, they are an essential actor in promoting access to social rights for young people.

Social rights and sustainable communities – the work of the Council of Europe

The Council of Europe promotes the values of peace, democracy, human rights and dignity. It works for stable democratic institutions that provide governments and citizens a legal framework that they can trust. Its Europe-wide agenda places emphasis on social rights and social cohesion based on solidarity and co-responsibility.

To achieve these objectives, the forty-seven member States of the Council have adopted a number of international agreements, including the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (ECHR), approved in 1950. Building on this Convention, the member States signed the European Social Charter (1961) and the Revised Charter (1996) to guarantee social, political and civil rights to the citizens of the member States, designed to facilitate their economic and social progress. In this context, the Charter provides access to a wide range of economic and social rights, including:

- the right to work,
- the right to just, safe and healthy conditions of work;
- the right to a fair remuneration;
- the right to organise and bargain collectively;
- the protection of women in the workplace;
- the right to vocational guidance and training;
- the right to health protection and social security;
- the right to social and medical assistance and the provision of social protection services.

Furthermore, it involves a range of rights for people experiencing a physical or mental disability, rights for families, mothers and children to access social, legal and economic protection and a range of rights for migrant workers and their families.

These rights exist without discrimination on grounds of 'race, colour, sex, religion, political opinion, national extraction or social origin'.

The Charter, therefore, sets out a range of economic and social rights including educational, health and employment rights. These rights are among the general rights of citizens, as set out in the various Council of Europe and United Nations agreements. However, young people have particular needs that require to be specifically emphasized.

Consequently, Recital 17 of Part I of the Charter guarantee the rights of children and young people to ... appropriate social, legal and economic protection

while Article 7 sets out in greater detail their specific rights, in particular with regard to the employment of young people under 18 years of age.

For the achievement of a fully inclusive society it is necessary to empower individuals and communities to deal with the problems confronting them day-after-day. Policies, programmes and services intended to reduce disadvantage are more likely to be effective if those with direct experience of the problems, or those who live in communities affected by these problems, are involved in the design and implementation of solutions, and that these solutions are integrated with wider community development policies.

Everyone aspires to live in a safe, prosperous and healthy community, a community where everyone has the right to the same opportunities, freedom and respect, where parents can be sure that their children and young people can access good quality schools and other educational services, have access to recreation, sport and cultural facilities. In other words, thriving, sustainable communities that improve everyone's quality of life. However, for many local communities this is far from the reality and it can only be realised by public investment in essential local services and community cohesion initiatives. Sustainable communities can also be achieved by building more and better homes; by regenerating areas to create more jobs; by creating a sustainable environment; and by tackling anti-social behaviour and discrimination.

The Enter! Project of the Council of Europe

From the perspective of the Council of Europe, social cohesion is firmly grounded in 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".

In order to respond to the situations of violence, exclusion and discrimination that affect more and more young people in Europe, the youth sector of the Council of Europe initiated the Enter! Project in 2009. The project promotes access to social rights for young people, in particular of those exposed to social exclusion, discrimination and violence. More information is available at: <http://enter.coe.int/>.

Introduction to the seminar

So far, the Enter! project has focused on two main strands:

- firstly, it builds competences of youth workers acting directly with young people through a long-term training course, now in its second edition, and
- secondly, it involves institutional stakeholders, including representatives of local authorities in processes of advocacy for youth policies that better ensure young people's access to their rights.

This seminar intended to fill a gap, adding another brick to this construction, by engaging National Youth Councils. Youth Councils can facilitate collaboration between activists directly engaged in youth work, people responsible for policy-formulation at various levels and researchers and experts in the field of social rights.

Aim and objectives of the seminar

The seminar aimed to increase the expertise of national youth councils in using the framework of access to social rights for young people to advocate for and develop policies and programmes.

The objectives were:

- To develop participants' understanding of the human rights framework, with a specific focus on social rights;
- To provide participants with an overview of Council of Europe work in the area of access to social rights and social inclusion of young people;
- To develop participants' expertise in the rights-based approach to policy and advocacy in areas related to social rights, from local to European levels;
- To reflect on the role and potential of national youth councils in promoting access to social rights for young people and provide a space for exchange of practices and networking;
- To explore possible action at national level to promote sustainable communities and access to social rights.

Programme flow

The seminar programme was built to address its objectives, and covered a substantial number of themes in only three days. The first day focused on a wide range of introductions – to participants, to the Council of Europe, to the Enter! Project, as well as to concepts of social rights, through an interactive exercise. Participants were offered the opportunity to share their good practices of working on access to social rights for young people in their contexts.

The second day focused on structured contributions – presentations of the European Social Charter, the rights-based approach to policy formulation and challenges to social rights in Europe. The participants analysed gaps in access to social rights on the national level and discussed possibilities for youth councils to adopt the rights-based approach. They also discussed how to work in better communication with youth workers and youth leaders, and how to be closer to young people's realities and needs.

The third and last day focused more on individual and small group work. The participants deepened their understanding of the situation of particular youth groups (migrants, young people with disabilities, gender issues affecting young people, Roma young people) through thematic workshops. Time and space were devoted to developing concrete follow-up plans.

Methodology

The seminar was prepared with the direct input of a preparatory group made up of representatives of National Youth Councils, the Advisory Council on Youth of the Council of Europe and the European Youth Forum, with the support of an educational advisor from the Youth Department.

The seminar preparatory team designed the programme trying to find a good balance between theory and practice, learning and sharing and gaining knowledge and skills. The team planned every segment of the seminar considering its particular aims, objectives, and place in the overall programme flow, and non-formal educational methods were chosen where they were useful. The seminar embraced theoretical inputs from experts, facilitated plenary discussions, thematic workshops in small groups as well as some elements of manual and art work stimulating creative thinking. One extraordinary element of the programme involved a dinner served in a restaurant run by the social project "Mosaic" situated in a disadvantaged neighbourhood of Strasbourg.

Participants

The seminar brought together 25 participants from 19 countries - Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Croatia, Cyprus, Estonia, Finland, France, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Montenegro, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia", Turkey, Ukraine and the United Kingdom. All together 15 national youth councils were represented, as well as initiatives and networks involved in setting up youth councils. The seminar included three youth workers, participants of the first and the second Enter! Long Term Training Courses. This combination of youth councils' representatives and youth workers was meant to develop links and facilitate exchange between the youth structures and the realities of direct activities with young people. Since this was the first Enter! project seminar involving youth councils deliberately, it created an opportunity to transfer messages, experiences and information from other Enter! Project segments, particularly the LTTC courses.

Main discussion topics

The aim of the seminar was to increase the expertise of national youth councils in using the framework of access to social rights to advocate for and develop policies and programmes advantageous to young people, especially those experiencing exclusion, violence and discrimination. This chapter is an attempt to synthesise opinions, shared experiences, questions raised and statements heard throughout the entire seminar under some common headlines. Many of these themes were discussed at different moments of the seminar; participants kept returning and referring to discussions held earlier. This section includes also some individual contributions, which have been considered by the team and the report's author as particularly valuable and worth disseminating. This summary should help the participants to recall the main points that were raised during their seminar and present a general scope of discussions to new readers.

Relations and expectations on with policy-makers

(mostly during day 1, Tuesday 29. October; Session 2)

On the first day of the seminar, participants were engaged in an activity in which their task was to build a town accessible for young people, out of materials available in the room (see session 2). The discussion that emerged from the debriefing was continued at later moments of the seminar. It demonstrated the extent to which participants have a high level of confidence in governmental structures, including local authorities. If the results of the exercise are anything to go by, participants of the seminar expect governmental authorities to be open, accessible and to communicate with the members of the community.

Yet, objectively, in many local communities, there is a high level of disillusion and mistrust towards the governmental structures among young people. So, on the one hand, this might represent more of a hope for the future, than a statement of actual fact. On the other hand, one could also draw the conclusion that this approach demonstrates the common sense of dependency on government support that exists in many disadvantaged communities.

During other sessions of the seminar, participants reflected on their work of advocacy where they interact with policy makers.

Enter Dignityland! – an educational game on access to social rights

(Day 1, Tuesday 29. October; Session 4)

On the first day, the participants played the card game for learning about social rights with young people through human rights education, which was developed within the Enter! project in 2012.

The players, as Members of Parliament in an imaginary country called Dignityland, are asked to decide on the policies concerning social rights within a development plan for the next five years. Through argumentation and decision-making processes, players learn more about social rights and their links to social policies.

Participants enjoyed debating and sharing good practices with representatives of other countries. They tried to look at the policies in the exercise through the perspective of their own realities and not only through the rules of the game. Some participants tried to look for compromise to find policies accepted by all.

Participants considered Dignityland a good game for starting to think about social rights, and a good game that could be played with young people, to make them aware of the social rights and about debating and discussing, finding compromises.

Furthermore, participants looked at the policies from the perspective of their own realities, their own countries and looked for the similarities between different countries. They also talked about the feasibility of some solutions that might work in their countries. The description of the game is available at: <http://enter.coe.int/eng/Enter-Dignityland!-A-game-on-social-rights>.

Building partnerships

(Mostly during day 1, Tuesday 29. October; Session 4)

On several occasions, the participants discussed the importance of building and maintaining good relations with other stakeholders at the national and local levels. To the extent that this sounds somewhat obvious, the reality of cooperation shows that there is plenty of room for improvement in this area.

Some have mentioned that the local authorities are often not familiar with or skilled in using European legislation and policies, maybe because they are so preoccupied with direct problem solving. It was felt that NYCs could play a role in educating, and in transmitting knowledge from the 'higher level' – for example, from the Council of Europe or the European Union through participation in international projects and their involvement in the European Youth Forum. Youth councils are in a position to bring valuable information and knowledge about similar situations elsewhere, and about the formulation of relevant policies to the local level. The example of the European Social Charter was highlighted. It is not necessarily so well known at the local authority level.

NYCs can also benefit from maintaining good relations with local politicians. It can help them to get information, useful for the purposes of advocacy, as well as resources for activities. Some participants expressed concerns that the youth organisations and NYCs are not always considered as partners for local authorities, when talking about problems affecting young people. The example of employment was raised. The authorities rather discuss and negotiate with trade unions. When it comes to education, they talk to students' and parents' associations.

Links to the business sector are equally important. Some participants stressed the importance of having good contacts with businesses, as local governments are not able to create labour market opportunities for young people in the same way the private sector can. It was realised that in the Enter! project, systematic contacts with businesses are missing.

It was mentioned that in some cases organisations working closely with young people on a daily basis are not considered youth organisations (many are seen as public youth work or social work services) and for whatever reason they cannot acquire membership of a national youth council. In such cases a close cooperation and partnership could be built for mutual benefit. This is often the case with charity organisations, church organisations, Red Cross associations and others not fitting the typical youth organisation profile. In some other locations, local associations can be part of local or regional youth councils, which further, could be members of national youth council structures. Interaction between local associations and national youth councils can be developed in many ways, among others through specific events organised in a particular geographic area.

Sharing good practice examples

(mostly during day 1, Tuesday 29. October; Session 5)

A separate seminar session was dedicated to providing participants with the opportunity to share good practices on access to social rights, as exercised by their organisations back home. A key element for this exercise was to identify success factors, which could speak for good results regardless the place and scope, where it was realised in the past and could be organised in the future. Some examples were brought to the plenary:

- International activities held simultaneously in several countries, where the national youth councils organised advocacy campaigns for the recognition of non-formal education, this was connected to creating pools of trainers, capacity building for the organisations involved in these activities (Romania, Italy);
- Special encouragement to join the National Youth Council by different organisations, who work directly with vulnerable groups of young people (Serbia);
- Encouraging dialogue between youth organisations, young people, local authorities and representatives of the public transport companies to discuss the options for improving public transport for young people (France);
- Organising a simulation game, role play for young people, putting them into the shoes of other

people like mayor, local authority, etc. The point here is that the young people experience debate through an interactive exercise. In addition this a no-cost activity (Estonia);

- Cooperation with business, engaging them into offering jobs to orphans and providing them with housing (Azerbaijan);
- Structured dialogue on social inclusion; a group of 300 young people with different backgrounds come together every month to speak to the national youth council about the points of their concern. Results are disseminated to the policy makers, other young people and experts. This is accompanied with an on-line survey and encouragement for taking actions (Flanders, Belgium);
- Parent support strategy; this is a strategy and method of support to workers making critical decisions about children and young people in their families (United Kingdom);
- Representatives of youth organisations make an effort to travel to rural areas in the regions to make presentations about possibilities for using the European educational and mobility programmes (like Youth in Action), at the same time they make a survey on cultural patterns existing among young people living in these rural areas (Hungary);
- Memoranda for elections (regional, national and the EU); three youth councils put together statements with priorities, mainly regarding social rights, which they try to get into the political programmes for elections, they met with every political party and their youth wings to advocate for these social rights (Belgium);
- Meeting Prime Ministers or Ministers responsible for Labour; cooperatively the National Youth Councils are aiming to meet government representatives to speak about youth unemployment (Italy, France, Spain).

At later moments of the seminar, participants have occasionally referred to these examples as particularly useful and instructive, especially, when discussing their future plans of actions.

The Rights-Based Approach in our policy work

(Mostly during day 2, Wednesday, 30 October; Session 7)

Following the presentation of Ms Marianna GEORGALLIS, participants held discussions around the idea of adopting the RBA in their organisations. They came up with the following points and reflections:

- For RBA to be meaningful, **evidence** based knowledge, data, statistics have to be the starting point for the elaboration of any policy documents. This helps to identify rights-violations adequately and increases the credibility of anyone advocating vis-à-vis politicians;
- Youth organisations should refer in their policy documents to **international human rights standards** in order to ensure their claims are based on legal and internationally accepted instruments. They should identify which treaties their country ratified and should not refrain from reminding national governments about their commitments.
- Adopting RBA also means that National Youth Councils need to **learn more about social rights** as human rights – concepts, legal interpretation and available means for promoting and protecting social rights in a human rights framework. This would make them competent to speak out about the theme.
- It is worthwhile spreading the concept of the rights-based approach with other organisations and then **building coalitions** to work for the same right or group of rights together. The rights-based approach does not go without raising awareness of these rights among the target groups. National youth councils should work closely with their member organisations to share knowledge about social rights with the young people with whom they work directly.
- Some emphasised the importance of having a **good communication strategy**. This involves communication with member organisations, with young people, using youth friendly language and communication with the external bodies – both to public opinion and to government representatives.
- Some voices expressed that the transfer to rights-based approach should involve a **thorough and honest reflection on the policies of the youth councils themselves**. Are they inclusive for young people, use their language, encouraging of participation. This should definitely happen before

claiming anything from the government.

Challenges to social rights and struggle for them

(Mostly during day 2, Wednesday, 30 October; Session 7)

Throughout the seminar participants had several occasions to share information about their home countries and challenges faced by young people in accessing their social rights in each context. A large part of the sharing took place during the discussion of the rights-based approach, when gaps in policy in different countries were identified.

Participants mentioned, among others, the following examples:

- ***Social security provisions for young people (below 25 years of age)***

While young people often experience the same challenges and problems as their elders (homelessness, poverty, health), they are not always entitled to benefit from the same social assistance programmes, because they have not yet reached the age of legal majority or responsibility. Also the employees of social services are often focused on other social groups or have little in dealing with the special needs of young people. In other words, young people often need more proactive support measures and even special measures adapted to their specific needs. Across many countries, young people with migrant background face multiple difficulties in getting to education and employment. The same goes often for minority groups, especially Roma communities.

- ***Mixed messages about politics***

Some participants observed that young people are discouraged from active participation in political issues / life (being told that politics is a dirty business from which they are better off being protected by their elders) during their younger years, but they reach the age of majority they are suddenly confronted with the clear expectation that they actively participate and make conscious political decisions. These mixed messages are certainly reflected in the approach to political education take by many education systems around Europe (i.e. they don't do it) and is causing confusion and frustration among young people who are thereby often put off any form of political engagement.

- ***National Youth Councils and youth organisations are often not well enough equipped to address the issues of social rights***

In other words, they lack specific capacity and experience. At the same time, many are already doing practical activities on and for social rights, but they do not label them such, because they are not aware their actions fall into this category. This might be because social rights and human rights more generally are perceived as 'legal issues', which might seem complicated for youth organisations.

- ***The administrative and legal system is not youth friendly***

The procedures one has to go through to make a case for one's own or someone else's social rights are not understandable, applicable or accessible for young people. In this we see the reason there is such a small amount of cases concerning young people's specific issues.

- ***Public youth policy is horizontal***

This means all ministries should work together to make policies that can address young people's needs, including a specific and sustainable youth policy. However, the reality on the ground is that ministries tend to be specialised and work on their specific policy, and not necessarily cooperate with each other. The fact that youth policy is often the responsibility of some other sectoral ministry, such as the ministry of education usually means that youth policy is heavily dominated by that sectoral issue. A similar approach is observed at the regional and local levels of policy, where there is also a lack of cross-sectoral cooperation.

- ***Military service still exists in some countries***

In many countries where the military service still exists, the length of alternative service is disproportionately long in comparison to the length of the military service. This represents discrimination towards young people who do not wish to do military service.

- **National Youth Councils as social partners**

Some countries still experience difficulties in recognising National Youth Councils as social partners, while in some countries youth councils do not yet exist and in others they lack governmental recognition. This can lead to a vicious circle in which the yet-to-be-recognised youth council lacks sustainable funding, and are therefore not considered as competent and serious social partners when discussing key youth related issues. Many principle arguments exist for the establishment and recognition of youth councils, including several key human rights arguments, for example, the right to participation and the right to association. Other examples given by participants show that various youth representation platforms (youth councils, youth forums) can engage in constructive and effective dialogue with governments in favour of the social rights of young people. Yet on occasion, the authorities do not engage in discussion with such platforms, as they find other partners more competent to deal with certain issues. The examples of education and employment were given. Government authorities tend to prefer to engage with students' unions and trade unions or employers' associations on these issues than with the National Youth Council, although the NYC would certainly represent more young people's diverse interests. A more proactive attitude to cooperation and partnership on the part of the authorities would give NYCs the opportunity to strengthen their competence for the role of social partner.

Direct involvement of young people

(mostly during day 2, Wednesday, 30. Oct.; Session 8)

An important element of the programme was dedicated to the theme of involving young people in the work of National Youth Councils.

Some expressed that the work of National Youth Councils should be embedded directly in the needs and rights of young people. Some National Youth Councils have a very good record of involving young people directly in their activities. However there are certain limitations and challenges to these processes in some countries. Some NYCs are exclusively working only with their member organisations – youth organisations or even local and regional youth councils – they do not have direct involvement in youth work or have individual young people as members. Their mandate is also limited to assisting their members to organise capacity building activities and to develop policy documents. In these cases, the contacts and references to young people are limited.

It was also observed that in some places, there is a gap between the activists engaged in some youth organisations and the NYC, who come from the “middle classes”, while the young people that need the most assistance and much better representation usually come from the working classes. Often the agendas, aspirations and expectations of these different social groups do not match each other. For many young people, ‘survival’ needs are the priority rather than issues of participation. Finding common points of reference for the young people from disadvantaged areas and the youth organisations and NYCs is not always so obvious.

Some NYCs try to reach young people that are not members of their member organisations, because the issues they tackle are of interest of all young people. For example, several NYCs are working on the implementation of the Youth Guarantee which is an essential policy measure for both organised and non-organised youth. Some NYCs also try to invite youth and generalist organisations that work directly with vulnerable groups of young people to become members. Others are working on opening their membership up to individual young people not affiliated to any of their member organisations.

NYCs can also offer young people opportunities to volunteer in support of their daily work. Such volunteers can gain experience, a better understanding about youth organisations and about youth structures. For the NYC, this can mean valuable access to additional opinions and feedback from ‘real’ young people, with whom they do not necessarily have daily direct contact, and can be useful human resource support. The question of whom the National Youth Councils represent was also raised.

There are voices that expressed the opinion that NYCs represent all young people in the country. This statement can be challenged because many NYCs are mandated only to represent their member organisations and these do not by any means represent all young people. In some countries, the NYC is composed of organisations that represent the ‘mainstream’ youth, and other vulnerable or marginalised groups (Roma, young people with disabilities, migrants and minority youth) are not included, whether by design or by accident. At the least, this ‘fact’ should provoke honest reflection and self-questioning on

what can be done to make NYCs more inclusive, bearing in mind that the youth councils should not only work on behalf of their own members, but in the best interest of all young people in the country/ region. “We represent organised youth and we work for the best interest of all young people”, as a participant put it.

Thematic workshops

(mostly during day 3, Thursday 31 October; Session 9 A-D)

A separate session was dedicated to raise participants’ understanding on the situation of particular social groups of young people, including those with disabilities, young Roma, migrants and young people who are discriminated or excluded due to gender. Four thematic workshops were conducted in parallel, and included expert contributions and discussions among participants. The main outcomes of each were presented in the plenary and briefly discussed.

During the workshop on **young people with disabilities**, participants looked at Council of Europe documents, particularly the Recommendation of the Committee of Ministers on ageing and disability in the 21st century: sustainable frameworks to enable greater quality of life in an inclusive society. (CM/Rec(2009)6).¹

The workshop participants discussed possible ways for youth organisations to contribute to making a inclusive environment, providing the following examples such as:

- ensuring encounters take place between people with and without disabilities, so they can better understand each other’s perspectives;
- being flexible with membership of youth councils and encouraging expert organisations working on the theme to join (even if they are not ‘youth organisations’ per se);
- ensuring accessibility during activities (e.g. by interpretation adapted to the needs of disabled participants);
- encouraging member organisations to consider employing disabled persons as staff members; or
- including in the organisations and activities people with different forms of disabilities and not only people with reduced mobility.

The thematic workshop about **Roma youth people** started with an exchange about stereotypes and perceptions about this population group. A general picture of Roma focuses on countries in Central and Eastern Europe and this gives a wrong image of the Roma youth. The concept of youth is very difficult in Roma communities, where transition from childhood to adulthood comes very early. There are strong stereotypes around Roma in most European countries. The workshop participants discussed what youth councils could do in support of Roma minority youth.

- First of all, youth organisations should not start working on their own, but get in touch with contact (member) organisations which are already working with Roma (youth).
- They call for being open and listening – it is important to work with Roma youth and not for them.
- It is essential to first get in touch with these young people and listen to their needs and problems and later on adapt organisations’ activities and advocacy to these experiences.
- Strategy should follow from evidence gathered through good quality research and a proper social analysis.
- It is advisable to start working at the local level first, as this is where Roma youth and their challenges are most clear and obvious.

¹ Recommendation CM/Rec(2009)6 of the Committee of Ministers to member states on ageing and disability in the 21st century: sustainable frameworks to enable greater quality of life in an inclusive society; adopted on 8 July 2009, see at: <https://wcd.coe.int/ViewDoc.jsp?id=1470069&Site=CM>

The workshop on **gender issues** started with exercises developing participants' understanding of notions like: sex, gender, masculine and feminine and later continued by providing historical background to public debate on gender issues. Participants understood that the discussion on gender is not only about women's issues, and that it always informed by on-going debate and research. They also got to know existing policies of the Council of Europe, and about the public discourse on the ratification of the Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (known as Istanbul Convention).

The workshop further discussed the link between social acceptance of gender and sexual identity and discrimination on the grounds of sexual identity and sexual orientation

Towards the end of this workshop, its participants discussed possibilities for youth councils to contribute on this issue.

- It was agreed that one avenue would be to support membership of organisations active in gender issues and with open participation of LGBT people.
- Youth councils could include gender issues in their policies, put gender equality as their priority and raise public awareness around its themes.
- Youth councils could play an active role in promoting the ratification of the Istanbul Convention by the governments of their countries.

The workshop on **young migrants** comprised two basic elements; firstly, the participants learned about the subject, and discussed the overall situation of migrants in Europe and their home countries. Participants noted and expressed disappointment at the fact that there is little commitment to an inclusive approach and there are few coherent policies in favour of young migrants. Participants exchanged about what might be done to support young migrants.

- They stressed a power of training for youth workers, youth organisations and migrants on the one hand, and
- the development of public awareness and campaigning on the other.
- They see potential in intercultural education tools and see a need for more innovative solutions.

Possible ways to promote access to social rights

(mostly during day 3, Thursday 31 October; Session 9 A-D)

The participants had several opportunities to share ideas about how youth organisations and youth councils, in particular, can act for access to social rights of young people. The suggestions covered a wide range of activities, as follows:

- The participants agreed that **critical self-analysis** is necessary to establish whether or not their own structures, working methods, or even activities create an inclusive environment for young people experiencing disadvantage. The main concern here was to ensure access for people with disabilities and revolved around their participation in activities (both in terms of the physical and architectural barriers that might exist to their participation, and in terms of the inclusiveness of the methods used during activities). In addition, the question of the engagement of youth with disabilities in positions of decision making responsibility was discussed, including how to get more such young people engaged as activists or as board members.
- It was suggested that youth organisations and NYCs with staff positions, should consider options for **employing people with disabilities**.
- It was advised that youth councils should **build partnerships** with expert organisations, or institutions actively engaged in work with marginalised young people. These organisations might share their valuable expertise on one hand and become member organisations, whenever feasible, on the other.
- National Youth Councils should see if they are **open and flexible to accept in their membership organisations, working actively with young people**, but which are not necessarily 'traditional'

youth organisations. Some examples were given, where a youth council changed its own statute and actively invited various organisations working with marginalised youth to become members. Partnership could be developed with institutions involved in research, which could contribute to building competence and legitimacy of youth councils to speak about youth issues.

- Youth councils shall consider **promoting the rights-based approach** to their member organisations, through organising educational or raising awareness activities and eventually campaigns. Possible themes for such campaigns could involve information about the European Social Charter, other human rights instruments, equality, working with disadvantaged people, etc.
- As mentioned in other sections, youth councils shall reflect on how they build and do their **advocacy actions**. Transfer to the right-based approach is a key point. They might consider also doing research on and monitoring of the implementation of their policies. When advocating for change, it is worth using the existing legally binding documents as a point of reference, like the UN Convention on the Rights of Disabled Persons, the European Social Charter, and the Human Rights treaties. It is helpful to recall various recommendations, which are 'soft law' instruments aimed at assisting governments in developing better national policies.

Round table on “The promotion of Youth Rights in Europe”, organised by the European Youth Forum

On the 28th October 2013, the day preceding the seminar, many of the seminar participants attended an event organised by the European Youth Forum, a half- day round table on the theme “The promotion of Youth Rights in Europe’. This event involved representatives of the European Youth Forum, the relevant Council of Europe bodies and departments (the Secretariat of the European Social Charter, of the Court of Human Rights, of the Youth Department) and the Advisory Council on Youth of the Council of Europe.

The round table began from the current debate on PACE recommendation 2015² and aimed at discussing different measures to improve the access of young people to their rights, including the introduction of innovative non-legal instruments and a better use of the existing international legal tools. The organisers invited also experts to talk about regional examples of youth rights-based legal instruments – the Ibero-American Convention on the Rights of Youth and the African Youth Charter.

Ms Johanna NYMAN, Board member of the European Youth Forum responsible for Youth Rights, presented their call for the adoption of a new European treaty protecting youth rights. It was reconfirmed that youth in today’s Europe are bearing a disproportionately heavy burden resulting from the economic crisis, in comparison to other social groups, and that young people are particularly vulnerable to demographic changes on the continent. The challenges faced by young people are different from those faced by children or adults and the existing mechanisms do not fully protect and promote the rights of young persons. Thus, young people deserve a separate treaty protecting youth rights, especially in fields like: participation, education, employment, juvenile justice and transition to autonomy.

Ms Ilaria ESPOSITO, presented the work done by the Advisory Council on Youth of the Council of Europe, which enables youth organisations to share their experiences and perspectives, provide opinions and input on all youth sector activities. It is also to ensure that the voice of young people is represented at this level and that young people and youth organizations can fully participate in Council of Europe activities, making the decisions which directly affect them. Then, the speaker explained that the Joint Council have been discussing the first draft recommendation on access to social rights that has been created thanks to the involvement of young people living in disadvantaged neighbourhoods as well as with the help of other stakeholders involved in the 1st phase of the Enter! project. It brings an innovative approach to policy-making (it links with youth work at local level). They plan to submit the final version by the end of January to the CM exploring the possibility to present it during their meeting. The Advisory Council is cautious that accepting too many suggestions for modification from the CDEJ would significantly change the message that the participants in the Enter! Project wanted to give. This rather defeats the whole point of the recommendation and the process that led to it, and that rejecting this recommendation would go contrary to the promoted “democratic innovation”.

Mr Regis BRILLAT, Head of Department of the European Social Charter, briefly presented the European Social Charter, pointed out that human rights have been categorised according to different levels of importance; “the more important” ones, civil and political rights, were inscribed in the European Convention for Human Rights, while “the less important” social rights have been codified in the European Social Charter. As a result, social rights enjoy weaker monitoring mechanisms. The speaker pointed out that the Social Charter does not include a definition of “youth”, although it mentions the social rights of young people. It was recalled that the ESC does not foresee individual complaint procedures, only collective complaints, and even that to a limited extent due to the fact that so few member states have ratified it.

Mrs Soledad GARCIA-MUNOZ, member of the Commission of Experts on the Ibero-American Convention on the Rights of Youth, presented the development of the Convention and the rights covered. This is a relatively new treaty (it entered into force in 2008) and only seven countries have ratified it so far. The Convention has been developed on the basis of the approach of recognition of youth as an identity, and covers, among others the rights to education, personal integrity, sexual and reproductive rights, conscientious objection, participation, and family formation. It has a monitoring

² Council of Europe, Parliamentary Assembly, Recommendation 2015 (2013): Young people's access to fundamental rights, see: <http://assembly.coe.int/ASP/XRef/X2H-DW-XSL.asp?fileid=19709&lang=EN>

system based on bi-annual periodic national reports submitted to the Expert Committee, which formulates observations and recommendations.

Mrs Rachael KONDAK, from the Research Division of the European Court for Human Rights presented a compilation of the Court's case-law regarding the human rights of young people. This includes human rights violations related to forced labour, education, sexual abuse, juvenile justice, trafficking in human beings, mental health issues, hate speech on the Internet and the right to assembly. This is not a closed list, just a compilation of cases, considered to be most relevant for young people in recent years. The Court does not make any statistics regarding the age of plaintiffs. The speaker pointed out that there exists the 'so-called' third party intervention among the procedures of the ECHR, whereby a youth organisation could play an active role when human rights violations are particularly affecting young people.

Ms Mara GEORGESCU, from the Council of Europe's Youth Department, underlined the broad scope of activities organised for ensuring access to social rights by young people in the youth sector. On the policy level, the youth sector has several experiences in reviewing national youth policies. Ms. GEORGESCU stressed the importance of promoting the role of youth work and particularly of providing training to multipliers to work directly with the young people affected by exclusion – exemplifying the Enter! project, and its long term training course.

Opportunities for youth organisations to use legal mechanisms

The seminar itself and the preceding round table “The promotion of Youth Right in Europe” organised by the European Youth Forum, pointed to possible avenues and opportunities for youth organisations, including youth councils, to advocate for the respect and achievement of the human and social rights of young people. These events included discussion about how they can best use already existing human rights frameworks and mechanisms.

The round table preceding the seminar involved presentations of proposals for new legal documents, which would guarantee youth rights. Promoters of new legislation quoted successful examples of the Ibero-American Convention on the rights of youth (2005) and the African Youth Charter (2006) and called for the adoption of a similar document in Europe, under the auspices of the Council of Europe. There is no specific treaty on youth rights in Europe, so far, which participants stressed was challenging when it came to ensuring access to rights of young people. As a response to this call, a point was raised repeatedly that instead of calling for new documents, already existing mechanisms should be more effectively promoted and made more accessible in order to be used by youth organisations including youth councils.

The argument was made that the universality of human rights speaks for not distinguishing youth rights from other human rights as prescribed in the two principal European documents (the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms and the revised European Social Charter) as well as other human rights treaties.

Some warned that that another legal instrument exclusively for youth rights could even weaken the protection system. Even if agreed by the member states, the legal framework would definitely be much weaker than the ones already existing – the European Court of Human Rights and the European Commission for Social Rights. The value of the ECHR is that the human rights are universal and all rights of all age groups are equally protected there, there is no distinction between the age groups, when it comes to protection. The risk is that with a weak monitoring mechanism a youth rights convention would undermine claims for the respect and achievement of the human rights of youth in general.

It was noted that some opportunities exist for using existing mechanisms to better effect, as follows: communication with the Council of Europe’s Commissioner for Human Rights, collective complaints through the European Committee for Social Rights and shadow reports, proceedings and third party interventions before the European Court for Human Rights. However, it was made evident that these instruments are challenging for youth organisations to access, particularly the collective complaints procedure, which only a specific group of NGOs are able to utilise.

The role of the Commissioner for Human Rights³

This is an independent institution within the Council of Europe, mandated to promote the awareness of and respect for human rights in member states. Instituted in 1999 the office of the Commissioner is mandated to foster the effective observance of human rights, and assist member states in the implementation of Council of Europe human rights standards. It promotes also education in and awareness of human rights, identifies possible shortcomings in the law and practice concerning human rights and provides advice and information regarding the protection of human rights across the region.

The Commissioner for Human Rights is regularly paying monitoring visits to the member states. The Commissioner’s office welcomes initiatives to meet the Commissioner or his team members, while on visit. The Commissioner has usually one day dedicated to meeting with NGOs, where concerns, could be presented and thus they could get into the Commissioner’s reports. Recently, one member state’s government supported the Commissioner in paying particular attention to the rights of the LGBT people. A similar initiative could assist the Commissioner to look specifically at rights of young people in Europe.

The role of the European Committee for Social Rights⁴

The collective complaints procedure before the European Committee of Social Rights allows national and international organisations to lodge collective complaints on behalf of certain groups, whose social

³ Council of Europe’s Commissioner for Human Rights, see at: <http://www.coe.int/en/web/commissioner>

⁴ About the European Committee for Social Rights, see at: <http://www.coe.int/socialcharter>

rights are not respected. This is a chance for youth organisations – national and international – to advocate for the social rights of young people. Some collective complaints for children were already presented, so youth organisations can follow this example. There are certain procedural constraints to this opportunity, however, including the fact that there is a specific list of NGOs that are able to access this, in which neither National Youth Councils, nor the European Youth Forum, nor any other youth organisation is included. One approach might be to seek membership in this NGO list for the European Youth Forum (which includes many national youth councils). Another way to speak out for youth rights through the European Committee for Social Rights could be to contribute to the NGO reporting system before the Commission. Following the provisions of the European Social Charter, the member states, parties to this treaty, should submit their national reports on implementation of Charter. Likewise other NGOs, including youth organisations, can submit shadow reports to the Commission, where they present their own interpretation of the facts and their concerns about their presentation by the authorities. This would most probably be taken into consideration by the Commission reviewing national reports.

The role of the European Court for Human Rights

The European Convention of Human Rights provides for all people present on the territory of the Council of Europe's member states to file a court case at the European Court for Human Rights, in case of violation of the rights guaranteed in the Convention, under the conditions described therein. There is a record of human rights organisations supporting victims in claiming their human rights. The procedure is complicated and demands specialised legal knowledge and experience. However, there is an opportunity for organisations dealing with youth rights to intervene.

Another opportunity is prescribed in Article 44 of the Rules of Court, which allows for third parties, such as national human rights organisations, to apply to the President of a Chamber to intervene in a case before the Court and in appropriate cases permission may be granted. In addition, the Commissioner for Human Rights has a particular role for such interventions. Separately, non-governmental human rights organisations have regularly intervened in some of the more important cases before the Court. In this mechanism, the NGOs are supporting the Court by providing additional information, opinions, evidence, which could be considered in the judgment. So far, youth organisations have not used this tool. This framework is less formal, and although it also requires legal knowledge and experience, it equips non-governmental organisations with ability to draw Court's attention, if the human rights specific for young being are being violated.

It might be helpful to be aware of the Research report by the Research Division of the Court in 2012 "Selected case-law of the European Court of Human Rights on young people". This document compiles case-law before the Court that is particularly relevant to the question of youth rights and might be helpful for youth organisations, for educational and advocacy purposes.

Other tools are good examples of what could be useful for youth organisations. There exist some handbooks and guidelines prepared for lawyers participating in proceedings before the Court for Human Rights, on environmental rights. Although protection of the environment is not literally protected by the Convention, there are ways to show how it is directly related to human rights. A similar publication including guidelines relating to youth might be relevant for youth organisations, even though such a publication still has to be drafted.

Detailed programme sessions

The team planned every segment of the seminar considering its particular aims, objectives, place in the overall programme flow, and appropriate methods, based on non-formal education. This is presented in a form of the so called session outlines. Here is an overview of each programme session outline facilitated by the team members during the seminar. It provides information about aims, objectives, methods, timetable and brief evaluation.

Session 1: Welcome evening

Monday 28 October, 20:00 – 21:00

Aim	To open the seminar informally and welcome the participants in the Centre.
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To let participants get to know each other; - To let participants discover the European Youth Centre; - To build an open and friendly atmosphere for the seminar.
Methods and timetable	<p>20:00 Welcome words</p> <p>20:05 Get to know each other / opening activity Name game: you/me/left/right Treasure hunt to discover the EYC and to know better each other.</p> <p>21:00 Welcome drinks</p>
Evaluation	Participants easily got into the name-game, started breaking the ice, and paid attention to one another. They willingly took part in the 'treasure hunt', worked in smaller groups, cooperated rather than competed, worked within the given time limit. The informal part afterwards allowed participants getting together, initial interaction begin.

Session 2: Introductions

Tuesday, 29 October, 9:00 – 11:00

Aim	To open the seminar, build a common ground for discussions and understanding of the process.
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To introduce institutions/partners behind the seminar; - To introduce the background and process of the seminar - To foster getting to know each other and team building between participants.
Methods and timetable	<p>09:00 Round of introductions and opening</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Welcome words by Joanna Nyman (YFJ), and Ilaria Esposito (Advisory Council on Youth of the Council of Europe) - A round of names, organisations and countries of participants <p>09:30 Introduction to the seminar</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review of the Enter! project - Review of the objectives, rationale of the seminar and programme <p>09:50 Getting to know each other exercise (2 truths and one lie)</p> <p>Participants had to think about 2 true statements about themselves and their work in their organisations and 1 false. Once all of them thought about this, the others had to guess.</p> <p>10:10 Team building activity: Socially right city architects</p> <p>Participants were split in three teams and received different kinds of materials (old magazines, coloured paper, markers, string, old carton boxes, glue, scissors etc...). Each group was invited to explore their concept about a 'socially right city' and create an architectonic model of such a city, of a size of one table. Each group presents their model to the rest of participants, explaining reasons behind different elements of the city.</p>
Evaluation	Participants found it a bit difficult at the beginning of the "2 truths and a lie" activity to share their statements and to guess, due to the setting of the room. After the setting was changed

	as the activity continued, it took up pace and was more engaging. In the “architects” activity participants concentrated more on the reflection and metaphor, than the actual physical activity, thus achieved a good outcome. Common values have been emphasised, shared understanding of basic needs in terms of access of young people to social rights have been demonstrated. These activities helped participants to understand what others do in their NYCs and their roles. The team building session brought back the social rights aspects: accessibility, information for young people, connections between rights, sustainability of our societies.
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Session 3: Youth and Council of Europe

Tuesday, 29 October, 11:00 – 13:00

Aim	To provide participants with an overview of the Council of Europe work in the area of access to social rights and social inclusion of young people and the Enter! project.
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To discover the structure of the Council of Europe’s youth sector and the work of the Council of Europe as an institution; - To get to know the activities of the youth sector and the system of the co–management; - To understand the work that the youth sector of the Council of Europe and YFJ do in relation to social inclusion.
Methods and timetable	<p>11:30 Council of Europe Bingo Participants received a bingo sheet with questions about the Council of Europe and had to find answers from other participants.</p> <p>12:00 Interactive presentation of the Council of Europe structure and the Youth sector</p> <p>12:20 Enter! Project introduction through testimonials from the Enter! project participants: Mary Drosopoulos and Suzana Kaplanovic - LTTC 2009 – 2012, Jean Case - LTTC 2013 – 2015, Ilaria Esposito – AC member in the Enter! Advisory group and Mara Georgescu – Educational Advisor youth sector, Council of Europe</p> <p>12:50 YFJ presentation on social inclusion and previous activities</p>
Outcomes	Participants learned and discovered about the Council of Europe, the youth sector, and its activities. Furthermore, they were familiarised with the innovative approach of the Enter! Project linking youth work and policy making. Participants appreciated the information related to the work of YFJ on social inclusion and the link with the work of the youth sector of the Council of Europe.
Evaluation	Participants felt that the information received on the Council of Europe was enough and they liked to discover it through the bingo game, however at the same time they noticed that the time allocated to structured information on Enter! was not sufficient, because they did not have the time to speak with all the people involved. They would have liked to have more structured info on the Enter! Project.

Session 4: Enter Dignityland!

Tuesday, 29 October, 14:30 – 16:00

Aim	To learn, through experiencing a situation of policy-making, about social rights and social policies based on the content of the European Social Charter.
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To learn about social rights through human rights education; - To experience obstacles that prevent young people from the enjoyment of social human rights; - To learn more about social rights and their links with social policies; - To encourage participants to develop specific actions for social rights in their realities.
Methods and	<p>14:30 Enter Dignityland! Participants were divided in groups of five to play the game.</p>

timetable	15:20 Debriefing of the game
Outcomes	Participants learned how to use human rights educational tools to raise awareness and educate on the topic of social rights and the link with social policies. Participants linked the experience they had during the game with the actual situation in relation to social policies in their countries and those of others. Participants learned that for each social policy there is a different investment of resources to take into consideration.
Evaluation	The entire group was fully involved and participated in the game. Even if there was a country context defined for everyone (Dignityland), participants naturally identified themselves with their own countries. Some of the groups had difficulties in finding consensus on some of the social policies and decided to vote on certain issues to avoid time wasting. All participants enriched the argumentation already brought by each card. They noticed that it is easy to agree on the values behind social rights, but everything changes when the use of resources comes into play. Some of the participants commented on the situation in their countries. Unconsciously many participants only considered money as a resource, whilst there could be different kinds of resources available. Some of the participants started to mention some of the activities and projects that could fall under the access to social rights framework, but not necessarily linked to policy development and advocacy actions towards their government.

Session 5: Exchange of practices and networking

Tuesday, 29 October, 16:30 – 18:00

Aim	To facilitate exchange of practices between the participants / NYCs.
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To ensure that participants reflect on practices in the field of access to social rights that are present in their NYCs; - To draw attention to the best practices and share them; - To create space for networking among participants and build possible follow-up opportunities.
Methods and timetable	<p>16:30 Introduction to the exercise Each participant was invited to think about three good practices from their NYCs (i.e. a successful advocacy campaign, an innovative tool for promotion of social rights, a strong policy paper etc.) and describe it briefly on a piece of paper. The description should include: name, organisation, type of good practice, implementation time, short overview and key success factors (what made it successful).</p> <p>16:50 Exchange market Participants moved around the room freely, talking with one another, sharing their good practices. Every time, they shared a practice with someone, they exchanged the description paper. Later, they were presenting someone else's practices – the knowledge circulates around the room, everyone should have as many conversations as possible, so they can learn about as many practices as possible.</p> <p>17:30 Highlighted practices & key success indicators In a plenary discussion participants shared, what they learned from one another and which practices have grasped their attention the most. A flipchart with a TOP 10 was created jointly. In discussing this, particular attention was drawn towards key success factors. Supportive questions were asked: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What makes a certain practice a good one? - How can you replicate it in your reality? - How can you apply those success factors to other type of practices? </p>
Evaluation	Participants had space and time to exchange and realise that they are already doing a lot on access to social rights, but do not explicitly label it as the use of a human rights approach. Participants learned a lot about each other's work. Participants were very engaged. Despite the fact that it was quite challenging (last activity of the day, conversations lasting a full hour), all have been involved, shared and learned from the other with eagerness, have been inquisitive and interested in the details. The team saw the activity as one of the strongest elements of the day. This was both due to the dynamics of the session, and to the quality of the outcomes. For many participants it was a highlight of

	<p>the day. Some of them have expressed their discontent with the fact that there was not enough time allocated to the activity and they did not have enough time to talk to each and every participant. Others were concerned by the fact, that given group's diversity, there were very different levels of practices (i.e. strong political actions vs youth work initiatives), so it was difficult to find a matching, replicable practice. Some have come to the conclusion, that for the first time they realised how difficult it is to relate someone's good practice, and how careful they have to be when relating it back home, so that they don't create confusions, as well as how clear they have to be when sharing their good practice, so that they are understood correctly and their good practice is related properly.</p>
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Session 6: Reflection on follow-up

Tuesday 29 and Wednesday 30 October, 18:00 – 18:30

Aim	To provide a space for reflecting on the work of the day and its future implications in the work of NYCs work in the field of access to social rights.
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To recap the contents of the sessions of the day; - To allow participants to make links between different sessions of the day and their work back home; - To provide space for peer exchange of ideas / practices resulting from the seminar.
Methods and timetable	<p>Participants divided into five reflection groups and analysed both the first and the second day using the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What was the new thing I learned today, related to social rights and how will I use it in my work? - What was the new thing I learned today, related to work of the Council of Europe in the field of social rights access for young people and how can this benefit my NYC involvement? - What did I learn about the Enter! Project and how can I transfer it to my NYC? - What interesting good practice I learned from other participants today and how can I adapt it to my work reality?
Evaluation	<p>Every day the trainers met to share what participants fed back, and see if there was anything that can be adjusted in the programme in order to maximise the benefit for participants (i.e. more detailed explanation of the Enter! project has been added to the programme).</p> <p>Participants have been quite self-conscious; have reflected on their learning in the view of their expectations, but also beyond them. It was easy to notice group diversity also through the feedback given – some participants requested more structured input, meanwhile the others more interactive methods and sharing. The programme was constructed in the way that catered for both needs.</p>

Session 7: Social rights and rights-based approaches

Wednesday 30 October 2013, 9:00 – 16:00

Aim	To become familiar with human rights from the international to national levels and how they apply to policies.
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To understand the human rights framework and the European Social Charter; - To understand how international treaties link with national realities of policy-making; - To understand what the rights-based approaches to policy making mean; - To analyse the national situation and the role of NYC's particularly through their policy papers.
Methods and timetable	<p>09:00 Input on the European Social Charter and questions</p> <p>10:30 Input on the rights-based approach</p> <p>11:30 Working groups on: Sharing about the national gaps and understanding if NYCs really adopt rights-based approaches Before coming to Strasbourg, participants were supposed to prepare a little research on the national situation. In session, participants were divided in five working groups and looked at</p>

	<p>the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Share the gaps you identified on the national level in your country regarding specific social rights and also general obstacles, as discrimination, that prevent young people from accessing their social rights; - Share specific implementation gaps by the governments (example: failure to adopt an international human rights treaty, failure to adopt correspondent policies, failure to implement national legislation, no clarity of responsibilities between national / regional / local authorities ...) - Look at the policy papers of your NYC – are they rights-based? Each participant in the group looks at another participants’ policy paper and then all discuss. What can be done better? <p>14:30 Group feedback in the plenary. The group shared in the plenary the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - List of obstacles for young people to access their social rights; - List of implementation gaps of social rights by governments; - Checklist with what to keep in mind in NYC policy work in order to adopt a rights-based approach <p>15:00 Access to social rights – input and discussion with Kevin O’Kelly</p>
Evaluation	<p>Participants gained a lot of insights into the European Social Charter and the rights-based approaches to policies. Participants also drew guidelines to adopt a rights-based approach in their work in the NYCs. Finally, participants exchanged on their realities and implementation of social rights in their national realities. With the help of Kevin O’Kelly, participants learned more about what access to social rights is.</p> <p>Even, if the day has been quite heavy with a lot of content, participants have appreciated all the content of the day. A critical point of the day was related to having too many presentations during the day.</p>

Session 8: Workshop: Engaging directly with young people

Wednesday, 30 October, 16:45 – 18:00

Aim	To increase awareness of the need to involve directly young people in NYC work.
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To understand the link between representing young people and involving directly young people; - To understand how to improve the connection with young people that experience social disadvantage; - To learn from the experience of the youth workers in working directly with young people.
Methods and timetable	<p>16:45 Introduction to workshop</p> <p>In this session, participants were reminded of the core of the work they do: they work for young people and need to work with young people. This is because a key to access to social rights for young people is that they are involved in the policy process from the very beginning – that they are informed, consulted, represented, directly involved!</p> <p>Participants were divided in groups together with one participant from the Enter! LTTC and went through the following steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Learning from the experience of youth workers on how they engage directly with young people - Developing a reflection on how to engage more young people in the NYC work <p>Participants shared in the plenary a few guidelines for NYCs to involve directly young people in policy work on access to social rights.</p>
Evaluation	<p>Participants were inspired by the work of the participants from the Enter! LTTC. Participants challenged the ways they involve young people. A conclusion was that even if NYCs work for young people, they represent their member organisations and not necessarily all young people’s voices.</p> <p>The session was inspiring for participants and positively evaluated. The time of the day was quite challenging (last session of the day).</p>

Session 9: Group specific case studies generals session outline

Thursday, 31 October, 9:30 – 10:00 & 12:00 – 13:00

Aim	To reflect on the role and potential of national youth councils in promoting access to social rights for all young people and provide space for the exchange of practices and networking.
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To introduce specific topics: disability, migrants, Roma, Gender; - To work on specific case studies which deny access to social rights.
Methods and timetable	<p>09:30 Introduction about the workshops People were invited to reflect on what is interesting or important to know about someone else when they first meet, and to brainstorm the general categories of information. For example, name, age, sex, nationality, family role, religion, age, gender, ethnicity, job/study, taste in music, hobbies, sports, general likes and dislikes and more. This was done to raise awareness about the extent to which 'identities' influence the way young people are perceived. Participants were split into three groups and told that the first step is to compete in a relay race: one person runs towards a flipchart on the floor writes one word identifying the way young people see themselves and another for the way society defines them. Finally, a group brainstorming was conducted on the aspects of identity that people choose and those that they are born with, and how this contributes to the identification of specific groups in society.</p> <p>10:00 Working groups on specific case studies (see specific session outline)</p> <p>12:00 Working group reporting in plenary The groups reported on possible action NYCs can do on working for specific issues.</p> <p>12:45 Team input Presentation of the work of the AC on the issue "young people's access to their rights" and the recent compilation of the case-law of the ECHR and the ESC regarding young people. This focused on an analysis of the case-law, which clearly shows that some groups of young people are discriminated. Despite some public awareness regarding the discrimination against some groups of young people, no case has yet been submitted to the court regarding migrant youth. The extent to which this is the result of the success of domestic legal systems in treating such cases, or the barriers to accessing the ECHR or the social committee for migrant young people and their representatives, remains to be investigated.</p>
Evaluation	<p>Participants reflected on the concept of access to social rights for all young people. Participants identified the links between identities and the perception of specific groups of young people in society. The activity was adapted from and inspired by the "Who are I?" in the 2012 edition of Compass.⁵ This short introduction was useful for participants to understand that the debate on young people needs to be as specific as possible and not always refer to young people as some kind of homogenous group. Young people are very diverse and face a variety of struggles even when they may seem to belong to the 'same group'. The introduction helped to contextualise the following working groups on specific case studies. The conclusions in plenary were quite productive and the NYCs had the opportunity to distinguish between advocacy and policy actions to implement on specific issues.</p>

Session 9 (A): Working with young people with disabilities

Thursday, 31 October, 10:00 – 12:00

Aim	To reflect on the role and potential of national youth councils in promoting access to social rights for young people with disabilities.
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To introduce the specific situation of young people with disabilities; - To introduce the policy of the Council of Europe which could be implemented and adapted at national level; - To develop ideas about how to work more in the NYC on the specific situation of lack of

⁵ See: <http://eycb.coe.int/compass/>

	access to social rights for young people with disabilities.
Methods and timetable	<p>Participants were asked to share:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - why have they decided to join this group - what is their personal and their NYC experience in working with young people with disabilities <p>Participants learned about the Council of Europe work regarding young people with disabilities with the guest speaker: Alexander Preobrazhenskiy – Social Cohesion and Diversity Department, Directorate of Human Rights and Antidiscrimination – Council of Europe.</p> <p>Participants worked on existing documents on human rights access for people with disabilities (see list of attachments) – reflecting on possible needs for particular actions by NYCs in order to ensure special protection / provision of access to rights for disabled youth:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - on the level of working with NYC membership - in NYC's policy and advocacy work
Evaluation	<p>Participants engaged actively in the review of documents and the discussions. They appreciated the presence of the expert, were interested in the documents presented and have been looking for concrete actions they can take using those instruments.</p> <p>They brought very concrete examples from their national realities on what is the level of access to social rights for young people with disabilities and what their organisations are doing in this respect.</p>

Session 9 (B): Working with Roma young people

Thursday, 31 October, 10:00 – 12:00

Aim	To reflect on the role and potential of national youth councils in promoting access to social rights for Roma young people.
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To introduce the specific situation of Roma young people; - To introduce the policy of the Council of Europe which could be implemented and adapted at national level; - To develop ideas about how to work more in the NYC on the specific situation of lack of access to social rights for Roma young people.
Methods and timetable	<p>Participants read an article regarding the transition to adulthood of Roma young people and shared from their experience how they work with Roma youth or on their issues.</p> <p>Participants were introduced to the work of the Council of Europe, namely: Roma Youth Conference, Roma Youth Action Plan, Strasbourg Declaration on Roma, Committee of Ministers, 2010</p> <p>Participants reflected on what more they can do or better in their work in NYCs regarding Roma young people's access to social rights.</p>
Evaluation	There were four participants in the group. Some had experience in working on Roma youth matters, some did not. The discussion was a starting point for raising awareness about why to work on the situation of Roma youth.

Session 9 (C): Working with gender issues

Thursday, 31 October, 10:00 – 12:00

Aim	To reflect on the role and potential of national youth councils in promoting access to social rights for young people in the area of gender and gender equality.
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To introduce gender issues as a topic relevant to working with and for young people; - To demonstrate that gender is not only about women's issues and that it is not a static issue to be discussed along the dichotomy male-female or man-woman; - To work on specific case studies which brings up the lack of access to social rights; - To introduce the policy of the Council of Europe, which could be implemented and adapted at national level; - To put in place a policy development exercise in order to draft policies in relation to the discrimination on the ground of gender identity and sexual orientation.
Methods and	Introduction about the workshop explaining that "gender" is one of the identities that

timetable	<p>contributes to define different groups in society. The participants were asked to write down, individually, the first thing that comes into their minds when seeing the word 'gender', and they explained why they chose a specific word. Their 'post it' were displayed on a flipchart. The same exercise with the word 'sex' took place. A brief presentation of the definition and the terminology commonly used when referring to 'gender' and 'sex'. Introducing the quiz: "gender vs sex".</p> <p>Participants did an individual research on their laptops on definition in the gender debate covering terms such as sex, gender, man, male, woman, female, transgender, inter-gender.</p> <p>After short discussion introduction about the Council of Europe policies covering the issue, explain the background, treaties involved and history behind it.</p> <p>Participants discussed about how NYC can work more on the specific issues.</p>
Evaluation	<p>The group had four participants. Participants were really active and open-minded during the discussion and only when the topic of sexual orientation was tackled were they a bit shy in expressing their opinions. During the discussion, even the 'sex' definition was challenged saying that 'male and 'female' are still socially constructed boxes not allowing the existence of other sexes (referring to intersex). During the quiz 'gender' vs 'sex' participants complemented even with other stereotyped statements.</p> <p>In looking at the Council of Europe policies participants were really surprised about the ratification of the Istanbul Convention and the number of countries that are recently taking into consideration the possibility to do so.</p> <p>They asked a bit of historical background, which was easy to provide. Regarding the policy exercise they had a lot of questions on how to use legal documents and transform them into an action plan. This has to be considered a positive outcome. However, the Croatian Youth Council reported that they usually support and sign policy paper prepared by their member organisations experts in this specific topic to not replicate the work that they already do very well. In general all participants had the idea to cover gender from different perspective in their plans.</p>

Session 9 (D): Group on young migrants

Thursday, 31 October, 10:00 – 12:00

Aim	To reflect on the role and potential of national youth councils in promoting access to social rights for young migrants.
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To introduce the specific situation of young migrants; - To introduce the policy of the Council of Europe which could be implemented and adapted at national level; - To develop ideas about how to work more in the NYC on the specific situation of lack of access to social rights for young migrants.
Methods and timetable	<p>The workshop on young migrants was divided into three parts. In the first and second part of the workshop, participants worked individually and were asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to identify the social rights of young migrants according to existing international treaties; - to identify the social rights of young migrants guaranteed by law in their countries, the mechanisms that exist in their countries so that young people have access to these rights and their National Youth Councils do and should do to ensure that young migrants had access to their social rights. <p>In the third part of workshop, participants were asked to pair-up and asked to look for the commonalities between their individual results. Furthermore, they were asked to look for the concrete proposals that a National Youth Council could implement.</p> <p>In the last part, participants were challenged to present a single document in which the proposals for the National Youth Councils and the Council of Europe were stated with regard to the access of young migrants to social rights in European countries.</p>
Evaluation	Participants engaged greatly in discussions and reviewing the documents. They were interested in the documents presented during the working group and have been looking for concrete actions they can take, using those instruments. They brought very concrete examples from their national realities on what is the level of access to social rights for

	young people and what are their organisations doing in this respect.
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Session 10: Follow-up and evaluation

Thursday, 31 October, 14:30 – 18:00

Aim	To ensure follow up of the activity on national levels. To evaluate and close the activity.
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To identify action plans for NYCs; - To share the Council of Europe and YFJ future perspectives; - To provide space for evaluation of the activity, to collect participants feedback for improving future activities.
Methods and timetable	<p>14:30 Introduction to the YFJ follow-up on social inclusion</p> <p>14:45 Introduction to the Council of Europe opportunities</p> <p>15:20 Follow-up by participants Individual work on follow-up plans by participants, taking a fresh look at the questions prepared in advance, in discussion with colleagues.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What issues related to access to social rights for young people we need to prioritise in our work? - What type of activities we can organise more on access to social rights? - What type of advocacy work can we reinforce by using a rights-based approach? - What type of direct involvement of young people in our work we can foresee? <p>Participants were asked to consider and mention:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What existing NYC documents should be particularly taken into account? Which require revision, in the view of Human Rights based approach? Which can be a strong reference point for the actions you've planned (i.e. strategy paper, work plan) and how? - What international and national social rights instruments can you particularly work with and how will you use them to achieve fulfilment of your follow-up plan? - Who are the stakeholders you should take a look at more carefully (i.e. approach for the first time, build strong alliance with, search support at...) <p>Based on this work participants proposed three concrete actions that they or their NYC would take in the near future, as a follow up to the participation to this seminar.</p> <p>16:30 Discussion on follow-up plans Flipcharts with action plans of participants were posted around the room, the others were invited to take a look at them, gather some additional inspiration and add something to their own poster or drop a comment (advice, expression of support, possible networking opportunity) on a visited poster.</p> <p>17:15 Evaluation and closing Participants received a written evaluation to fill in. A round of thanks concluded the seminar.</p>
Evaluation	<p>Participants developed ideas to take back home. They also had the chance to network with the others.</p> <p>All participants prepared a concrete follow-up proposal. There was very little time for evaluation and closing left. It still remains a question how the seminar team can follow up on the implementation of the proposals or whether it should be done at all. The planned evaluation exercise was not done, as the time that was planned for it was used for the round of final remarks and questions by participants themselves. Participants were grateful for the fact that an activity of this nature was organised targeting NYCs specifically, they have expressed concern that it happens so late in the Council of Europe work and they have requested more similar activities and more structured involvement of NYCs in the Council of Europe work in general.</p>

Summaries of expert inputs

The team put great emphasis on equipping the seminar participants with professional knowledge and expertise in the field of access to social rights for young people. Thus, the invited experts contributed with their presentations.

- Ms Elena MALAGONI works in the Secretariat of the European Social Charter. She described the Council of Europe's activities on social rights, spoke about the legal framework, particularly about instruments for reporting, monitoring and protecting social rights.
- Mr Kevin O'KELLY is an expert on social issues, especially on employment. He is a political scientist and has been actively involved in politics, including in the role of advisor to the Minister for Labour in the Republic of Ireland for many years. He coordinated some projects of the Council of Europe regarding social rights and advised on social issues new emerging democracies in Eastern Europe, when they were joining the Council of Europe in the 1990s. He spoke about challenges to social rights today, shared his personal experiences from working in the field and presented ideas for promoting social justice, e.g. by developing sustainable communities.
- Ms Marianna GEORGALLIS is working for the European Youth Forum, and was a member of the preparatory team for the seminar. She is engaged in promoting youth rights at the European level. She contributed with two inputs, one about the challenges to social inclusion and another about the rights-based approach to policy formulation. She shared her experience from working on policy issues at the European Youth Forum working.

The international human rights framework and access to social rights for young people: the Revised European Social Charter

Ms Elena MALAGONI (Secretariat of the European Social Charter)

Just to remind again, social rights are human rights, not all remember this. Sometimes you need to know, where you come from in order to know, where you are heading to. The Social Charter has its origins in the post-WWII context and is based on the same principles, which gave a rise to the European Convention on Human Rights. It shares the same roots with the Convention; in the same way as the Universal Declaration of Human rights gave a rise to the international Covenants on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. Those two Covenants were adopted at the same time (1966). The Social Charter and the European Convention on Human Rights share common core values, both are based on human dignity, freedom, equality, additionally the Social Charter has another principle – solidarity. However, they have had different pathways and histories. It was much easier to adopt Convention on political and civil rights (1950). It took much longer to come to an agreement on social rights and for states to accept it (the first Charter was adopted in 1961 and came to force in 1965). Now there is revised version adopted in 1996 (came into force 1999). The additional protocols extended the scope of rights and added strength to the control mechanisms.

There are some peculiar things on how it works, which you cannot find in other treaties.

One thing is that the Social Charter has not been ratified by all Council of Europe's member states. It was not a condition of membership until relatively recently. Today, new members have to adopt both the ECHR and the European Social Charter. There are four states missing: Lichtenstein, Monaco, Switzerland and San Marino.

Another special aspect is that the states have possibility to accept the rights, on a catalogue basis, Out of 31 articles and 98 paragraphs, the states can choose articles and paragraphs that they are bound to. In a way this is weakness, on the other hand this is, what allowed states to accept a number of rights, which they would otherwise not accept, if it was a matter of: "all or nothing".

There are some rules anyway. This freedom of choice is not total; there are standards of accepting minimum 16 articles or 63 paragraphs and among this must be at least 6 out of 9 hard core articles, the provisions considered to be most important.

The hard core articles are:

- the right to work (article 1),
- the right to organise (article 5),
- the right to bargain collectively (article 6),
- the right of children and young persons to protection (article 7),
- the right to social security (article 12),
- the right to social assistance (article 13),
- the right of the family to social, legal and economic protection (article 16),
- the right of migrant workers and their families to protection and assistance (article 19),
- the right to equal opportunities and equal treatment in matters of employment and occupation without discrimination on the grounds of sex [gender equality] (article 20).

As there is a revised version of the European Social Charter from 1996, the states are allowed to choose whether they are bound to the old version or the new version. There are 33 member states that accepted the revised Charter and 10, which keep to the previous one. The Secretariat maintains on-going negotiations with the member states, trying to encourage them to accept the revised Charter and to accept more and more articles.

The European Committee for Social Rights is in charge of monitoring the respect of the obligations undertaken by the member states, comprised of 15 experts, who do not represent member states, but act as individual experts in the social rights sphere, they are impartial. They are mandated for six years, renewable once. Their role is to assess the situation in each member state and see whether the situation is in conformity or not with the Social Charter. This treaty is complex, includes parts that are interlinked, but drafted at different moments. Similarly to the European Convention on Human Rights, the Social Charter should be understood, in the light of how it is applied in reality and not just looking at the text only, which might sound obsolete in some expressions. It is the Committee to interpret how some rules should be applied, how the change of the society comes to into play, and how it applies to society now, in comparison to what the drafters have prepared. One thing is what the text of the Charter says, another is the body of statements and interpretations and the case-law developed over the years of its application.

The Social Charter has a double monitoring system, also because at the beginning the states did not want to have any legal body overseeing it. The initial system was only based on the national reports from the member states, where they say, what they are doing to apply in practice the rights guaranteed in the Charter. The states send in reports, there could be comments from other sources like NGOs, this information is assessed in the secretariat and the Committee for each article and paragraph accepted by the state and in the end the Committee says whether the state is in conformity with the Social Charter or not, or that the information provided is not sufficient to make an evaluation. Conclusions are adopted every year, and because there are so many articles and provisions, the Committee has adopted a procedure to divide the Charter into four thematic blocks of similar articles, and every year they examine provisions corresponding to one group. This year rights related to social security, social assistance, health, and poverty are examined. The conclusions could be commented by the national governments, who might provide additional explanations, then the Committee of Ministers can adopt recommendations on that basis.

The other monitoring system is a collective complaints mechanism. It is like a legal procedure, in that it has admissibility criteria. Nevertheless, not many countries agreed to be part of the mechanism (only 15 countries by now), which is a problem for the effectiveness of the mechanism. The complaint can be lodged by certain international organisations that represent employers, workers and NGOs. Optional provisions allow national organisations to participate in this procedure, however so far only one country approved this optional provision (Finland). The complaints are examined by the Committee, firstly there is decision on admissibility, and there is adversary procedure, where the complainant and the state are present, they bring their arguments, provide evidence. In exceptional cases a public hearing can be organised. In the end it comes to a decision on whether or not the state violated the provisions of the Social Charter. The decision is brought to the attention of the Committee of Ministers, who can examine what the state has done in the meantime. So far there have been 103 complaints. The publishing of the non-observance of the Social Charter and violations of social rights by states can be a deterrent for future violations.

Challenges to social inclusion of young people

Ms Marianna GEORGALLIS (European Youth Forum)

Much like social rights, youth rights, and human rights, social inclusion incorporates a range of issues that affect youth – from employment to health to social protection systems to education. One of the positive side-effects of this cross-sectoral topic is, however that it in some ways forces the adoption of a common theoretical approach to it – and this is the rights based approach. Why the rights based approach is crucial in guiding our work on social inclusion? The rights based approach in itself is centred on the notion of inclusion. As a concept in itself RBA ensures the meaningful and systematic inclusion and empowerment of the most vulnerable. It ensures that efforts are directed at the roots of structural injustices as opposed to the effects, the roots which most directly lead to the social exclusion of young people. It promotes institutional change more strongly as opposed to charity and ultimately strives to empower each person to take part in the society; to be included in the systems that represent them and claim their rights.

Having covered the approach to social inclusion and the reasons such an approach is integral to developing policy and advocacy process, lets now have a look at the basics of social inclusion in Europe and the issues that have to be tackled by each and every one of us. Children and youth have always been the demographic in Europe most likely to face poverty and social exclusion. Of course this historical vulnerability has only been enhanced by the economic crisis, and also often by the resultant austerity measures imposed in several countries across Europe. Poverty and social exclusion increase through crisis – In 2011, almost 30% of young people were at risk of poverty and social exclusion, comparing to 24% for the rest of the population. NEETs – 14 million NEETs 15-29 year olds. The youth unemployment rate is 2.6 times as high as the unemployment rate for the rest of the population. This is not just related to unemployment either – a growing issue across Europe, is the issue of the working poor – those that are in employment but earning less than 60% national median wage (and even in countries such as Germany with the lowest rates of youth unemployment social inclusion of young people is threatened by low quality jobs, and extremely low wages – some as low as 50cents per hour)

The right to employment Problem; High levels of youth unemployment have serious and long term consequences on young people's inclusion not just in the labour market but also in social, civic and political life

Political disengagement; Young people, who are Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEETs) are likely to have built up a lack of trust in institutions, as they may perceive that authorities lack the ability to solve their problems. This results in the fact that, at European level, NEETs record a substantially lower level of democratic and social engagement than non-NEETs. The more deep seated societal consequences of this of course is that a large share of "politically disillusioned" young people can contribute to undermining the legitimacy of the democratic systems in our societies. And of course this functions in a cyclical manner low trust – low political engagement – low social participation.

Social unrest; Such levels of youth unemployment can also have the reverse effect in causing social unrest as has been seen across especially crisis countries such as Greece. The International Labour Organisation has highlighted that the risk of social unrest increased from 34% in 2006 to 46% in 2012. Increase in demonstrations and protests is of course not in itself necessarily a negative thing, but the rise of violence and more worryingly the rise of extremist political parties and young peoples' support of them across Europe is concerning.

Precarious jobs; And it's not just lack of jobs that leads to this cycle - the mentality of 'any job will do' is growing due to the scarcity of jobs, meaning that young people are increasingly taking on poor quality work, the violates their right to decent working conditions, to job stability, to freely choosing their employment. Temporary contracts is an indication of this 42% of young people in temporary jobs compared with 11% of adults, 1 in 5 young people fear losing their jobs. Temporary contracts are not innately bad for young people – traditionally more young people have been on them than adults due to the ability to combine work with training and education – however this stark difference in proportions is very much a clear indication of the effects of the crisis on young people who are expected to take on the burden of the flexibility requirements of the labour market more so than the rest of the population. A phenomenon gaining public attention now on the issue of precarious jobs is that of the zero-hour contract where you are paid only for the work you are required to do meaning absolutely no job security – common in UK, Ireland and in other EU countries such as Italy. Such a rise in precarious employment means that young people have reduced access to social protection mechanisms, have less job security

and in a long term result are less able to gain their autonomy, settle down; and thus contribute actively to social and political life.

Solutions; Information guidance counselling, Young people have the right to information on the labour market on career choices – this can contribute strongly to reducing unemployment due to the issue of skills mismatch. The right to security in job and life. Quality internships – quality framework to ensure young people's first experience of the world of work is educationally valuable and concretely contributes to developing their skills. Addressing the issue of precarious jobs (Through framework directive on contractual arrangements, through eliminating zero hours contracts)

Social protection; Measures that discriminate specifically against young people have entrenched young peoples' higher risk of social exclusion and poverty. In Greece in 2012 on the instruction of the troika the minimum wage reforms reduced the national minimum wage by 12% but for young people by 22%. In the UK there is a separate and lower minimum wage for young people based purely on their age and not on experience of skills. And in the UK recently; the government have proposed, if they are re-elected to cut housing benefits and unemployment benefits for under 25 years olds that refused to take up offers of employment education or training – totally cutting off a safety net for young people that cant' take a job not because they are lazy as is often the rhetoric in these kind of discussions but because they are disabled, mentally unwell, have dependants etc

Solutions; Advocating for a living wage, Minimum wages that do not discriminate against youth, Ensuring that the implementation of the youth guarantee scheme does not become tied to social benefits in this way

Education Early school leavers – lower level of skill thus more likely to be NEET. Problem is not only that of low skills but that of Lack of recognition of non-formal learning – which means that skills integral when it comes to finding a job and developing professionally and personally are not acknowledged – skills gained through participating for example in youth organisations, through volunteering etc.

Solutions; Non-formal learning and recognition of it. Research - Study on the effect of NFE in youth organisations on employability – showed positive effects on employability. VET systems –to equip young people with relevant skills for labour market – to enable them to participate in society. Quality apprenticeships where educational objectives are firmly established so that young people can complete internships that give them skills that then allow them to contribute to the labour market and to society as a whole. Increasing the reputation of VET amongst young people as well as employers. Youth work – empowering youth orgs as the bridge between labour markets/education/social systems and young people.

Rights-based approach to policies

Ms Marianna GEORGALLIS (European Youth Forum)

The aim of this contribution is to introduce how to adopt a rights-based approach to the policy in the organisations and the importance of this approach, when it comes to access to social rights for young people. What the RBA is? It starts from very simple understanding that the rights are inalienable, universal, indivisible and independent. This notion focuses deliberately on people realising their rights as rights holders, it identifies each and every person as rights-holder as well as it identifies duty-bearers – these are the people responsible, people in power, in institutions, in governments that are accountable to rights holders for fulfilling their responsibilities. When it comes to RBA and youth policy, the importance is that it translates the needs into young people's rights and this way it empowers young people as active stakeholders in achieving these rights. It creates mutually accountable relationships between duty-bearers (governments, companies, institutions) and young people. It gives the children and young people the right to participate in democratic process that influences their access to rights. Why to adopt rights-based approach? Because it increases accountability and responsibilities of governments and of institutions towards young people as the rights' holders and through doing that is addresses roots of structural injustices and not just surface level, short term needs.

The advantage is that it has a long term approach, it does not deal with the issues specifically based on someone's struggle due to specific circumstances. It allows for long-term approach in dealing with young people's issues, it adds more weight to what we as youth organisations work for and what we call for. Ultimately it empowers youth as key actors that can drive change for themselves, it rejects paternalistic charity attitude, as it actively promotes autonomy of young people and full participation in the society.

There are challenges, of course, related to the RBA and the most simple one is related to fact that human rights are not universally agreed – various international treaties are not ratified by all member states. Countries are able to pick and choose which rights they would obey, which often makes difficult to identify which rights you can identify the actual legal frameworks for and which you cannot.

Standards are not clear enough either. The ability to establish infringements and take actions, how to complain procedures are not clear often. The various complicated legal tools are often not clear, we miss the struggle if we adopt this approach. Transition within the organisation to use this approach is difficult, because it requires ability to adapt entirely new mentality. In previous discussions, people often said, they were not aware that many things they do are actually within the framework of human rights. This is one of the challenges, to be able to step back and see the wider picture and many things you do, come under the rights-based approach. As a result, there is a need to adopt this approach from the very beginning of working on policy, till the very end. Despite the challenges it is worth it.

We can look at how to adapt this approach. How to begin with it in your organisation?

Define and analyse the PROBLEM

What is the problem?

Which rights are being violated?

Which groups are most affected by the problem?

What are the causes of the rights violations?

Define and analyse the GOAL

What is the overall rights-based goal?

Which groups of people are prioritised?

Who are the stakeholders – the duty-bearers?

What are the problems that prevent stakeholders from meeting their expectations?

How can these obstacles be overcome?

Define the ACTIONS

What are the priorities for action for our organisation?

What are the objectives for these actions?, - this is different from the rights based goal which is broad and not time bound – objectives are specific and measurable,

Who are our allies?

Which organisations and departments can we work with?

Access to social rights for young people

Mr Kevin O'KELLY (*European Trade Union Institute*)

I would like to start by looking at the challenges we are going through in Europe today and globally as well. This has bearing on how we look at social rights, how we access social rights.

We see a lot of debate around climate change today, and environmental issues, for example debates taking place in the European Union, about nuclear energy in the UK or attempts by the EU to close down the coal farm power stations because of the environmental impact or future energy demands – how are we going to deal with that, as carbon fuel diminishes. These are major and new debates, which were not there fifteen years ago. These are new debates that impose on our lifestyles.

Obviously we are seeing major changes in demographics in all countries of Europe. Some countries are in danger, their populations are dropping and may disappear in the next two to three generations. There are growing social and income gaps between those who are better-off in the societies of Europe and the USA and those who have less. The gap is increasing all the time. This is having an impact on how younger generations and communities that are living in disadvantaged or coming from poor backgrounds can participate in social mobility. Those in lower income groups experience difficulties in trying to move up the social ladder.

Migration is and always has been a big issue, and it has moved to the top of the European agenda. You have all seen what has been happening in the Mediterranean in the last couple of months. And this is an issue, because many of the Council of Europe member states are emigration countries and the EU member states are immigration countries – how to balance this is a big challenge. The use of technology and access to information technology has changed completely in the last years. This changes our lives – how we do the things, being in instant information, instant communications. The other issue, we have to face in the European societies is a long-term impact of the financial crisis, and the economic recession, we have gone through. This will have an impact on the labour market; the living standards of the young generations will be lower than the ones of their parents and grandparents. The impact on labour market, jobs has been significant over the last five years. Some people refer to “lost generation” talking about youth unemployment, as impact of this recession.

We can look at the current European crisis in four categories – the environmental crisis, the banking crisis – financial issues, social and human rights challenges. Many governments are taking the opportunity to undermine social rights and basic rights using for example, the excuse of terrorists' attacks. We don't have confidence in democracy, people don't have confidence in governments, and state institutions, we have the rise of the right, fascist ideology across many countries. I think that the governments don't trust their citizens either. There is mutual distrust there between the ruling class and the rest of the society.

I would like to say a little bit about the Council of Europe work on social rights. There was a Directorate for Social Cohesion, it worked on the basis of using the Social Charter to build objectives for social cohesion in Europe. It focused on employment for vulnerable groups trying to draw member states' attention to the need for quality public services and for improving services they are providing. This was to promote sustainable communities, and to try pushing democracy down to the lowest level, so you have participants of democracy and civil dialogue at the community level. This is also to promote local employment, sustainable employment and protection of the environment. These objectives were also a basis for the Social Charter too.

Article 7 is crucial for the protection of young people and their access to social rights. I took the opportunity to see, which paragraphs of Article 7 have been signed by member states. There are countries which did not sign up to all paragraphs. Why don't you go back to your countries and make pressure through national youth councils for your governments to sign up to all paragraphs of Article 7? This is to show that you know the Charter is there, that article 7 is there and to criticise governments for not signing up to the articles.

Access to social rights. The Malta Declaration signed in 2003 on access to social rights set an agenda for the Council of Europe on social cohesion for ten years. Within the Enter! Project, we looked how the items from the declaration could be specifically brought to bear in favour of young people.

One is access to public service. What does public service mean? Public service provides a safety net for

the vulnerable in society in various ways. This refers not only to the social protection that the states provide. We observe policy formation at various levels - European Union, Council of Europe, the national level. In federal states this also takes place at the regional levels, but the only level, where the citizen is engaging in the dialogue with government is the local level through education, health services, through welfare services. The citizen does not engage with the European Union, with the national level policy makers, but with the local level. The local level is incredibly important from the point of view of getting message across to influence the implementation of policies.

Access to housing, this is done in the context of local policies. Many member states are withdrawing from the provision of social housing. They pass it on to NGOs, or to the market. And this has caused problems during the current crisis in a number of countries. The present financial crisis started in the USA, and they don't have any social housing policy. They pushed people into mortgages, buying a house they could not afford and whole market collapsed. And it had such a strong impact on global economy.

The other important aspect is protecting minority groups, migrants, and people with disabilities. Minority groups are often subject to multiple disadvantage. The disadvantages they experience build on each other. Addressing inequalities suffered by minority groups should be a key policy for equality in any of the member states. They need to focus on integrating communities around education, training and the labour market.

Another point is free and equal access to education and it does not happen in many countries. The earlier children get into the education system, the better they go through primary and secondary school level. Research was conducted about the children from poor areas and better-off areas, at six years of age in deprived areas, the children were already 2-3 years behind their peers in middle class and better-off areas. At later stages, this gap increased, at the time they get to the second level there is no opportunity for these children to get into the third level education. They were too far behind.

The fair and equal access for all children is extremely important, because if you want to break the intergenerational cycle of poverty, education is the way to do it. As a result of the crisis in many countries the libraries have been closed and thus access to literature limited especially in disadvantaged areas. In schools, in primary and secondary schools, in disadvantaged areas they don't have sport facilities, playing fields, and sport halls. They experience intellectual disadvantages but also physical ones.

Access to vocational school training, there are some who believe that the countries, who have better vocational training systems tend to have less young unemployment – e.g. Germany, Denmark, Austria and Netherlands. Education is a building block process important to have skill training that meet demands. In many cases the educational system brings people with skills, qualifications that are out of date.

The last is employment, which is the most powerful way to get out of poverty. Is the most successful way for social mobility, it is the key. The recession has had a massive impact on the labour market. The section of society that are hit most are young people. The 20 – 25 year olds trying to enter the labour market today are finding it almost impossible. There are number of reasons - the jobs are just not there. The other point is that there exists a whole population of working poor – people's wages are not enough for a decent living, wages are static and the cost of living is going up with extra charges for social services and taxes are going up. Some, however, claim that 'any job is better than no job', no matter the wages.

Sustainable communities – this might be an abstract term. The challenge is to build sustainable communities. Often in poor areas you have poor housing in poor condition, poor installation, and stock, some areas are overcrowded, there is a lack of social housing, so housing is a key area to tackle for sustainable community. These challenges are all related and impact on each other. We see reductions in local social services, often no public transport, postal services are cut off, police, banks are closing their branches and sport facilities are closed or sold off. The big supermarkets often don't set up in such areas, so you don't have access to good quality food. There is food poverty – this is not about having no food, but having no good quality food, no equal distribution of good quality food. If one takes no access to good quality of food and difficulties with public transport, that is major problem having impact on health, on education. In some schools children have no food at schools. There is lack of good quality early childhood care, this is too expensive for some people in disadvantaged areas. Parents in these areas have no resources to support the school facilities. Larger vocational training and education is located in urban areas, access there might be a problem. This might be a problem for rural areas, where

you have little access to education.

The NYC should be politically involved to bring these issues to politicians and socially involved through the trade unions, as regards to the employment rights. So there is a struggle for communities with good quality schools, modern facilities, employment in environmental friendly and sustainable sectors.

Also in regard to health services, there is limited access to family doctors and many primary health care centres became privatised organisations. In rural areas waiting lists are longer for health services.

Local democracy – there are services working together at the local level to bring participants to civic dialogue, and try to influence on policy makers, bringing NGOs, local politicians, local social services,

Follow-up action plans

The team made closing remarks covering some follow-up proposals from the side of the Council of Europe and the European Youth Forum.

The proposals embrace opportunities for closer cooperation between the Council of Europe and the national youth councils.

- The Youth Department is in the process of revising the Portfolio for youth workers; soon a trial phase will begin in spring 2014. This is a chance for developing links with youth councils lobbying for recognition of non-formal education. A strong collaboration could emerge better visibility for the project and youth councils. Funding from the European Youth Foundation is also available. Although some national youth councils are not eligible for obtaining financial assistance, the interested youth councils should check with the EYF staff on new rules and accessibility. Youth councils can promote the EYF among their member organisations or even become partners in projects applied for by youth organisations. For the next two years (2014-2015) the Youth Department will have a theme of transition to autonomy and labour market strongly on its own agenda. It involves a Symposium on challenges to transition to working life and autonomy as well as the Consultative meeting on transition to autonomy and labour market (planned for spring 2014).
- The Enter! Project (2009-2012) contributed substantially to a recommendation on access to social rights by young people, which is under discussion in the Committee of Ministers for adoption. If successful, it might become a strong policy tool for national youth councils in their advocacy.
- A reminder about the role and the Advisory Council on Youth was made, since this body is comprised partially of representatives of national youth councils, who thereby participate in developing programmes in the youth sector of the Council of Europe.
- The point that calls for participants to Council of Europe's activities are often open to youth councils' representatives was made.
- The running campaigns and programmes like No Hate Speech or Roma Youth Action Plan or manual for young people with disabilities create space for youth councils to contribute actively as well.

From the side of the European Youth Forum, some proposals have been expressed too.

- The YFJ will explore legal possibilities to become eligible for lodging collective complaints on youth rights before the European Social Rights Committee.
- The YFJ will lobby for the PACE recommendation on young people's access to fundamental rights [Recommendation 2015 (2013) of 24 April 2013] to be better recognised and reach Committee of Minister's endorsement.
- The European Youth Forum will continue capacity building measures towards its member organisations, including national youth councils. This involves training events on social rights and on right-based approach to policies, so they could keep monitoring the situation on national level and compile reports, shadow reports submitted to various committees.

One of the key seminar's objectives invited the participants to explore possible action at national level to promote sustainable communities and access to social rights. Responding to this objective, the final part of the seminar (Session 10) created a space for the participants to develop their action plans, which they want to carry out at their home organisations, and they were absolutely free to choose any form, scope of possible activities. Most participants focused their actions on dissemination of information, raising awareness within youth councils and among the member organisations, particularly on using right-based approach to the policy formulation. This chapter provides collection of action plans, as provided by the participants shortly after the seminar. In a number of cases, this means that the action plans developed during the seminar have been consulted and getting feedback in respective sending organisations, back home.

NAYORA National Youth Council of Azerbaijan

actions	Rationale	time / responsible
Prepare report for NAYORA	To share gained information and ideas	2-4 weeks The Seminar participant
Prepare a public report with NAYORA	To inform society about concrete steps towards defending human rights	4-8 weeks NAYORA and The Seminar participant
Conduct educational events to NGO working with youth directly	To spread the information among NGO to let them better defend youth rights	2 -2,5 months NAYORA

National Council Youth on Youth and Children's Organisations of Civil Society of Belarus RADA

actions	Rationale	time / responsible
Seminars on youth rights and advocacy	Youth organisations often do not keep the frame of youth policy and don't realise that they work for realization of youth rights. We want to show members of youth organisations what is right-based approach and to teach them to plan and provide advocacy campaigns on youth rights. After the course of seminars the participations will have opportunity to send a project of advocacy campaign on youth rights and the best campaigns will be supported.	November 2013 – August 2014 Secretariat
Starting consultations with the representatives of discriminated groups of young people	Consultations should be linked to the needs of young people from discriminated groups (non-members of the NYC)	March – June 2014 Secretariat
Seminar for journalists	Seminar for journalists of our web-site ampby.org and member organisations. Themes: writing about right not facts + No Hate Speech	April 2014 Secretariat

Croatian Youth Network

actions	Rationale	time / responsible
Position paper on higher education	Many areas of higher education are now changing and we need a tool to have a quick respond to new situations. HR: we want to ensure access to education	Next 6 months Action team and assembly of NYC
Connecting unemployed youth with environmental organisations	There are unused capacities in both sectors and we want to combine them because it is a way to employ youth and work for environment.	1 year / The Seminar participant
Advocacy for civic education and gathering support	Our research showed great need for it. HR: access to information	1 year / NYC
Report on signed parts of European Social Charter	Easy access to documentation for writing policy papers with human rights approach.	1 month / The Seminar participant

Cyprus National Youth Council

actions	Rationale	time / responsible
"Structure Dialogue: Empower youth participation in decision making"	Offer the opportunity to young people to freely express their opinion on the issues that concern them	Ongoing project Secretariat
Gaining visibility on the access of social rights for your people	Giving the opportunity to young people on their rights and how to get access	April 2014 Secretariat

Dialogue and Cooperation between Civil Society, Government and businesses	Look for support and cooperation for the amelioration and improvement of the access of social right for young people	September 2014 Executive Board Secretariat
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Estonian National Youth Council

actions	Rationale	time / responsible
Continue to expand into other policy areas like social affairs, expert groups by inviting them to our seminars/summer school/debates etc.	To have more stakeholders, participants and different expert opinions to get them more involve and to share knowledge between different interest groups.	2014-2015 NYC, Government
Arrange fieldtrips to other NGO's, other youth organisations, centres or trips similar to what we had on Seminar- trip to disadvantage areas to raise the awareness of places like that	There are too many or too much project based work. There isn't enough cooperation between different organisations, not even with the ones which are close to the organisation it self.	2014-1015 NYC
Arrange role games to youth centres, schools etc (good way to introduce games similar to Dignityland)	To raise awareness what are youth's rights and how to use rights based approach;	2014-2015 NYC

Finnish Youth Cooperation Allianssi, the National Youth Council of Finland

actions	Rationale	time / responsible
Present the rights-based approach to the rest of our advocacy team	Policies and advocacy are made evidence-based, the human rights – perspective often not considered	2013 The Seminar participant
The process of 2015 Parliament election goals will use rights-based approach	Human rights as one tool in the campaign	2013-2014 Advocacy team
New international committee volunteers will be trained about the rights-based approach	Human rights as an advocacy tool and this will also spread the idea of rights-based approach to MOs	2014 The Seminar participant

National youth Council of “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”

actions	Rationale	time / responsible
Spreading the learned lesson	The learned lessons and the report will be introduced on the governing board in the end of November. The board will create plan on further activities in the field of advocacy towards better approach to social rights for the youth in Macedonia. Info package will be created and shared among the members organisation and on the web page of the NYCM	November 2013 The Seminar participant
Agreements on right based approach in writing polices and documents.	The board will open platform for proposals from the member organisations and create a decision documents with guidelines in right based approach. The document will be shared with the member organisation (55).	January 2014 The Seminar participant, NYCM board members

Organising study session for bringing ENTER experience to the members organisation of the NYCM	Weekend study session will be organised with purpose to share the experiences from the ENTER program and start broader dialog with the members organisation in the NYCM. The ENTER Tools and guidelines will be presented. The session will tasked the participating organisation to take concrete action in strengthening the quality in the approach to social rights and gain knowledge in the same time.	April - June 2014 NYCM Board and executive teams
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ANACEJ France

actions	Rationale	time / responsible
"Stop stereotypes on youth" campaign	The aim is to promote this campaign around the country, and say that the youth can have a place in the society to participate.	It has been created in 2006 and we make this campaign every year. All the members have to promote this campaign.
"2012, I vote"	This is a campaign in order to attract the youth to vote for the presidential and the legislatives elections.	It has been created in 2012 for the elections in France.
The national congress of ANACEJ	The aim was to organise the congress about solidarity. We invited all the local council from France and during 4 days we worked on this subject	October 2012 The National youth council (ANACEJ)

National Youth Council Hungary

actions	Rationale	time / responsible
Prepare report to my NYC about what I see, and learn during the seminar	I have to write a report about the conclusion and the good practice what I saw about other NYC and NGOs. I think I have to highlight that somehow we have to build the social right problems to our everyday work, and call the NGO attention for it.	1 month The Seminar participant
We have to establish officially our NYC to carry out actions, and write down in the same time our organisation and operation code, wherein give emphasis for the social right of the youngsters.	We have to form an official NYC because if we have an official NGO we can apply to project, win resources, and carry out actions to reach our goals. If we create an organisation, we will find support organisations who can take part in our actions. Now we have 105 organisations that can help for us, so if we make our Ngo I think we will have a so big support team.	This is during the process The presidency of Hungarian NYC
After that established our NYC, we should submit a proposal what is implementing the youth law (We have no youth law currently in Hungary) to the government, and we emphasis the social right of the youth in it.	I think we can reach result if the government can take us seriously. For this essential that we be official NGO. After the government can accept our initiations, touch everything what is youth.	1-2 year President of the NYC

Forum Nazionale dei Giovani - Italy

actions	Rationale	time / responsible
Monitoring and Evaluation	Case study on the European Social Charter	2013 – 2015 Development strategy by FNG at national level.

Advocacy Activity	Advocacy for the fully application of the European Social Charter and to admit the national NGOs as recurrent for the abuses at the Charter.	2015 (after action 1) FNG advocacy strategy to the Italian Government specifically to the Ministry of equal opportunities.
Awareness Activity	Awareness Activity on social rights specifically targeted on ethnics/sexual/gender minorities.	2014 Ministry of education, in cooperation with students' organisations member of FNG.

Montenegrin Youth Forum

actions	Rationale	time / responsible
Use social rights based approach in drafting Law on Youth	Draft is still in process of writing and Montenegrin Youth Forum has representative in working group	November/December 2013 Secretary general of MYF
Check European Social Charter and fact-sheets and see what Montenegro signed and what didn't and find some place for NYC in it	Information are available	2014 Board of MYF
Elect new Board and divide their roles and responsibilities according to different social rights (participation, education...), transfer them knowledge from here and plan some concrete actions and projects and be more active on National and European level	Assembly of MYF will be until the end of 2013 and new board will be elected	2013/2014 Assembly and Secretariat

Portuguese Youth Council

actions	Rationale	
CNJ continues to cooperate with its partners to fight the Trafficking in Human Beings in Portugal, namely the Democratic Women's Movement, aiming to raise the Government and civil society's awareness in general for this scourge.	The trafficking in human beings is a modern form of slavery. We also believe that Human Trafficking is a sordid crime that reduces its victims, mostly women and children, to the condition of goods or merchandise. We believe that such a clear and gross violation must be reported and fought constantly.	
The CNJ proposes to develop, on the International Day against Homophobia, a national conference on the rights of LGBT youth, aiming to raise the awareness of schools, higher education institutions and Portuguese youth for the importance of fighting this scourge	We understand the creation and implementation of protective measures against homophobia, transphobia, biphobia and homophobic and transphobic bullying in the school environment in Portugal to be critical in the fight against these crimes.	

<p>Promoting gender equality by giving it a dimension of social change, not only concerning mentalities but also the recognition of women and young people's capacities as well. Therefore, we intend to implement an initiative called "School for Equality and Development",</p>	<p>It is up to the CNJ, together with the other actors, to foster the respect, appreciation and advocacy of gender equality, assuming it proactively and practicing it as a referential point of its action. We, thus, aim to improve the quality of the debate and to facilitate a more comprehensive and current discussion and reflection. We want it to function as a space for debate, education and information about discrimination based on gender. In order for it to have the desired success, it is still necessary to identify a set of entities that may improve this activity with their experience and expertise.</p>
<p>We continue to claim the creation, in both state and public use infrastructures, of adequate accessibility for people with disabilities.</p>	<p>We consider it to be important that tight inspections are carried out in the construction sites and public and private transport, to insure the compliance with the law. A law which provides for the protection and the creation of several efficient solutions to the problem. We are committed to lobby the responsible authorities and to identify and disseminate cases recognized as good practice in promoting work with young people with disabilities, employers who have to integrate these young doctors, sociologists and other academic programs that develop studies in this area, companies developing hardware and software to simplify the limitations of young people with disabilities and youth in general. We also intend to ask the Ministry of Education to reinforce the need for public schools to be equipped with an adequate infra-structured to receive people with disabilities, and for teachers to receive adequate training and support in order to offer these students the same quality of teaching.</p>
<p>Intergenerational Solidarity - the CNJ has sought to engage and join projects and activities that support the achievement of its mission to defend the rights of young people and social inclusion of citizens, respect for collective future with more balance and intergenerational harmony.</p>	<p>The CNJ will continue to make every effort to make it possible in early 2014 to conduct a project that aims to contribute to the discussion of a key topic for our future. This initiative aims to promote a wider discussion space extended to the very important issues of intergenerational solidarity. This initiative follows the European Year Solidarity between Generations and, unlike most of the debates that we have had the opportunity to participate in it puts young people at the centre of discussion.</p>
<p>Poverty and social exclusion – enhanced by the economic crisis that has been increasing the number of unemployed Portuguese people – are being increased by Government's retreats in the policies of social support, putting entire families in difficult situations. It is necessary, to develop policies, improving access to work, social security, essential services (health care, decent housing) and education as well as using more effectively existing funds to support social inclusion and fight discrimination.</p>	<p>In 2005, the figures provided by the National Justice and Peace Commission pointed towards the existence of two million people living below 60% of the average income defined by Eurostat to Portugal. Over 20% of the Portuguese would, at the time, be living without basic survival conditions. If, at the time, this was the situation of one in five citizens, it is expected that the current economic crisis, along with the constant and increasing austerity measures and cuts in social support, will have been responsible for causing many people to go through this situation. Although the Government insists on devaluate this issue, the truth is that many social solidarity institutions have been noticing a strong increase in the number of requests for support that they have been receiving. Corporate social responsibility must also be encouraged, even if, for that, new laws should be created.</p>

National Youth Council of Romania

actions	Rationale	time / responsible
<p>Formal address to CNCD- National Council for Anti-Discrimination & Ministry for Youth & Sports & <u>Invitation to Dialogue</u> on the European Charter for Social Rights & Youth Rights</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - establish dialogue - push for the EC on Social Rights - create mechanisms/tools within the National Strategy for Youth for ensuring access of Young People to their rights & focus on YP with fewer opportunities 	<p>November 2013- February 2014 CTR-board - depending on the availability of the other institutions</p>

Contact UNICEF Romania & other NGOs that work with Young Roma in order to start a small initiative at local level & establish contacts & empower several Young Roma leaders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - need to have/start a more structured dialogue with Roma Young People - now is a good opportunity to involve them in discussions about the National Strategy & Action Plan - started designing micro capacity-building processes 	November 2013-February 2014 CTR-Board CTR-Pool of Trainers -UNICEF -Other NGOs
Use 2014 EU Elections Campaign to promote Youth Rights and EC on Social Rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - we already have resources that we can also use for this purpose - benefit of media attention -initiate a stronger dialogue with political leaders 	November 2013-April 2014 CTR-Board Campaign leaders Partners involved Member organisations

National Youth Council Serbia

actions	rationale	time / responsible
Cross national research on implementation of social rights through work of youth organisations (MOs) and national policies and similar	This action would serve as an empirical evidence for future steps. It could also foster regional/ international cooperation between NYCs. At the end, rationale behind it contains also a fact that this kind of action would contribute to the promotion of social rights on ALL levels (local/ national/ international).	Responsibility for this would fall on NYCs interested in implementation, of course.
Long term training course on social rights and RBA, in cooperation with national ministries (such as Ministry of youth and sport and Ministry of social affairs or similar)	This action will have obviously great multiplication effect on nation level. It would contribute to empowerment of MOs and of course to development of cross-sectoral cooperation, which is missing.	Responsibility for this is on NYCs but also on CoE, who could serve as a provider of LTTC.
Social right(s) that is mapped as "critical" to be put as one of (bi)annual priorities of NYC via process of strategic planning	This would be in favour of systematic approach to the problem and programme instead of project based approach. KOMS could do this probably in 2015 when I expect our next strategic planning event to take place.	
Regional/international advocacy campaign for NYC right to organise	This action aims to raise awareness on importance of real implementation of right to organise for NYC among decision makers. It could also bring attention to urgent need for administrative grants that should be recognized on both international and national levels. Mutual pressure on this issue is promising better results. NYCs should do this in cooperation with CoE and YFJ.	

National Youth Council in Turkey Initiative

actions	Rationale	time / responsible
Establishing NYC of Turkey	Supporting youth rights in Turkey	Early 2014 One of the founders
Introducing it on national level	Gaining strength from other youth organisations in Turkey	Middle 2014 Lobbyer
Introducing it on international level	Being a member of YFJ	2014-2015 Lobbyer

All-Ukrainian Union of Youth and Children's NGOs «The Ukrainian Youth Forum»

actions	Rationale	time / responsible

Translation of «COMPASS» from English into Ukrainian. Presentation and distribution and promoting of COMPASS all over Ukraine.	Informing of young people in Ukraine about Social Rights\Human Rights Rising awareness of Social and Human Rights Spreading tools of learning and promoting of Social\Human Rights	2014-2015 Ministry of Youth and Sports of Ukraine, Ukrainian Youth Forum
Information campaign for Youth Rights – Flashmob with disabled young people.	Inclusion of young disabled people in Civic Society. Informing of Social\Human Rights	2014 Ukrainian Youth Forum
Training for trainers and multipliers «Enter to Social Rights for young people»	Spreading advocacy tools and approach further to Member and not Member Organisations. Spreading the information of Social and Human Rights	2014 Ukrainian Youth Forum, NGO «Mandry»

Crimean Tatar Youth Council

actions	Rationale	time / responsible
Monitor and research reports	Research work on defining and analysis of the problems of Human Rights violation in Crimean Mass Media, addressing the European Social Charter, UN Convention on HR protection	November, 2013 – End of December, 2013 The Seminar participants, HR department of the YC
Publications on the basis of reports	To raise awareness of the international society by making publications on HR violations among Crimean Tatars in the Media	January, 2014 The Seminar participants, other members of the YC
Campaigns	Campaigns on promotion the accessibility to social rights of youth – to make young people understand their social rights by providing informational support	February, 2014 – June, 2014 The Seminar participants, other members of the YC, other local NGOs

Evaluation of the seminar

The seminar has been evaluated in two ways, firstly through reflection groups held as the last working session of a day and secondly through an evaluation questionnaire filled in by the participants at the end of the programme. The results from reflection groups discussed later by the team helped to modify programme according to participants' expectations and learning needs. Among others, participants preferred to have more theoretical inputs and presentations, than game-like exercises, they wanted more information about Enter! project, they realise, they often do activities for social rights, not necessarily calling them by this name. Having own observations, the team addressed the suggestions on the following days.

Traditionally the last session of the seminar was dedicated to the evaluation, conducted through evaluation questionnaires. Eventually 20 filled-in evaluation questionnaires were returned. Underneath there is a summary of answers given to are answers given to seven questions in the questionnaire.

1. What do you take with you from this seminar?

The majority answered that they would take with them new information, knowledge, skills and inspiration for new work. They highlighted getting knowledge about social rights and the rights-based approach, a broad overview on access to social rights, a clearer view on the legal framework. Some people recognised the importance of emphasising the dimension of Human Rights and the importance of cooperation and information in all levels and all directions. People enjoyed good interactions with other participants, widening networks. Some learned that the right approach to young people is still lacking.

2. Which sessions of the programme were the most useful for you?

The majority of participants indicated that above all they liked group work, where they could talk about NYC work, they also liked thematic workshops as well as the presentations – the one on the Social Charter and the possibilities of follow-up from the side of the Council of Europe. Some people expressed their satisfaction with learning about the rights-based approach and the opportunity to analyse policy papers in working groups. Some highlighted the meeting with representatives from the Court (at the Round Table) and the dinner at Mosaic.

3. What did you miss in the programme?

Some participants expressed they need for more space to discuss possible cooperation between the Council of Europe and the NYCs as well as the joint actions among NYCs. Some miss more detailed explanation about the collective complaints procedure within the Council of Europe. One opinion was that the seminar should have invited young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods and marginalised groups, other representatives, members of parliament, representatives of networks on EU level dealing with young people, while others missed voices representing the business sector. More experts and researchers would be welcomed by some others. Some answers pointed to the fact that no debate took place to identify specific recommendations for advocacy. Some would have liked to have a more practical approach for the use of the international framework for the social charter. There was also a critical opinion that the programme did not correspond to what NYCs usually do. Several people said they would appreciate having more informal evening games organised to integrate participants. For one person, some presentations were dry and a bit abstract.

4. Is there anything you gained during this seminar that you can use in your practice in your organisation?

Many participants indicated they concretely learned about the rights-based approach and now recognise the importance of keeping the human rights framework in the work of NYCs. People have a better understanding about the Council of Europe and what instruments NYC can use to address the issues. Several opinions expressed satisfaction about learning other realities, learning good practices from other countries. Dignityland exercise informed about youth rights in an easy digest way.

5. What kind of follow-up will you develop after this seminar?

The people said they will definitely disseminate the report and other materials from the seminar, the conclusions and presentations. Some said they will confront their national youth councils on their policies

in the light of the rights-based approach and review their strategic plans and documents through the RBA perspective. Similarly, there was an idea for integrating the European Social Charter with participant's daily work. Some other ideas for follow-up involved: communication with local authorities, peer training, monitoring and research on Human Rights' violations, running campaigns to access the information on social rights and human rights protection.

6. How do you evaluate the logistics of this seminar (information sent in advance, venue, meals, informal programme)?

Almost every person who filled out the evaluation questionnaire mentioned that the food quality was not satisfactory and some informal programme should have been better organised. Otherwise people appreciated the seminar, the team as friendly, information adequate.

7. How do you perceive the Enter! project? What can you use from it in your practice?

People expressed their interest in this project, they find it interesting, a good project for local initiatives, they appreciate links with young people, youth workers, youth councils and officials. It is an example of a project including minorities. The Enter! project brings inspiration to implement ideas, especially about writing policy documents and developing cooperation and partnerships. Some participants want to use recommendations concerning youth with disabilities in their work back home.

Daily Seminar Programme

Sunday 27 October

Arrival of participants who attended the European Youth Forum round table on 28 October

Monday 28th October

Arrival of participants who do not attend the European Youth Forum event

9.30 Round table “The Promotion of Youth Rights in Europe” (European Youth Forum)

13.00 Lunch

Free time

20.00 Welcome activities

Tuesday 29th October

9.00 Opening session

9.30 Introduction to the seminar

9.50 Getting to know each other

11.30 Introduction to the youth sector of the Council of Europe and the Enter! Project

13.00 Lunch

14.30 Enter Dignityland – introduction to social rights

16.30 Exchange of practices and networking among participants

18.00 Reflection

Wednesday 30th October

9.00 International human rights framework and access to social rights for young people: the Revised European Social Charter

10.30 The rights-based approach to policy-making

11.30 Analysis of the gaps in access to social rights for young people on the national levels and the rights-based approach in the practice of national youth councils

13.00 Lunch

14.30 Sharing outcomes from the working groups

15.15 Input on access to social rights and sustainable communities

Kevin O’Kelly, expert on social rights

16.45 Involving directly young people in our work

18.00 Reflection

Dinner out (Mosaic project)

Thursday 31 October

9.00 Introduction to workshops

9.30 Thematic workshops (addressing the specific situation of young Roma people, young migrants, asylum-seekers and refugees, young people with disabilities)

12.00 Plenary exchange on the workshops

13.00 Lunch

14.30 Follow-up actions and networking

16.30 Follow-up and evaluation

Friday 1 November

Departure of participants

List of participants

Azerbaijan

Narmina TEYMUROVA - NAYORA

Belarus

Stanislava GUSAKOVA - National Council of Youth and Children's Organisations of Civil Society of Belarus «RADA»

Belgium

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