

ENTER! Youth Meeting

Access to Social Rights for All Young People

European Youth Centre, Strasbourg, France
14-18 September 2011

Meeting report

The opinions expressed in this work are the responsibility of the author and do not necessarily reflect the official policy of the Council of Europe.

All correspondence concerning this document should be addressed to the Youth Department of the Council of Europe, youth@coe.int

This documentation has been compiled and edited with the help of the educational team of the seminar 'ENTER! Youth Meeting' held on 14-18 September 2011 at the European Youth Centre of the Council of Europe, Strasbourg, France:

**Pieter Jan Uyttersprot, Athanasios (Sakis) Krezios,
Ilaria Esposito, Thierry Dufour, Brigitte Ludman, Nadine
Lyamouri-Bajja, Alexandra Raykova, Matteo Fornaca, Sara
Ulfhielm, Mara Georgescu, Menno Ettema, Ruxandra
Pandea, Dariusz Grzemny, and
Rui Gomes**

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Meeting report

by *Gisele Evrard*

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I. MEETING PROFILE

ENTER! Youth Meeting facts and figures

<i>Type</i>	International youth meeting
<i>Topics</i>	Access to social rights, discrimination, violence, disadvantaged neighbourhoods, youth policy, youth participation.
<i>Venue</i>	European Youth Centre, Strasbourg, France
<i>Dates</i>	14-18 September 2011
<i>People</i>	About 180 participants
<i>Outcomes</i>	Revised recommendation and a message to the Committee of Ministers, networking and partnerships
<i>Main Organiser</i>	The youth sector of the Council of Europe

Background - where does the Enter! Youth Meeting come from?

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

development of youth policies in the Council of Europe.

Considered as an innovative event for the youth sector of the Council of Europe, the Enter! Youth Meeting has been mainly rooted in the experiences and the practice of the long-term training course Enter! and in the related activities. The participants' projects and the Enter! seminars became the basis of the policy recommendations and guidelines which have been prepared by an expert group in 2011 and revised in this youth meeting.

➤ For more information on the Enter! LTTC and related processes: <http://enter.coe.int/>

Objectives - what did we want to achieve?

- To share realities and collect experiences of young people affected by the issues of violence, exclusion and discrimination in disadvantaged neighbourhoods;
- To engage young people into dialogue with the Council of Europe and discuss together the issue of access to social rights for young people;
- To create opportunities for the participants to learn about social rights in Europe by associating the event with the 50th anniversary of the European Social Charter¹;
- To take stock of the experiences of young people involved in the projects run within Enter! long-term training course as a contribution to the planning of

¹ Website of the European Social Charter: <http://www.coe.int/SocialCharter/>

- the second phase of the Enter! project;
- To discuss priority areas of intervention of youth policy on access to social rights for all young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods;
- To provide input to draft policy recommendations for the Committee of Ministers on access to social rights of young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods².

Programme - what did we do?

- 3 welcome addresses
- 4 official opening addresses
- 1 youth seminar for some 180 youth workers and young people
- 1 keynote contribution
- 9 working groups on the message to the Council of Europe from the meeting participants
- 9 working groups on the policy recommendation
- 1 fair of practices, projects and interventions
- 1 common and entertaining exploration of Strasbourg
- Conclusions of the general rapporteur
- 3 closing addresses

 A detailed programme is available on page 86.

Participants - who was there?

- 31 youth workers
- 104 young people from 24 countries
- 9 facilitators and experts

² If the Committee of Ministers endorses or agrees on a policy recommendation, the latter is sent to the Members States

- 1 keynote speaker
- 7 institutional representatives
- 1 representative of the City of Strasbourg
- 1 general rapporteur
- 1 documentalist
- 1 cinema-media team
- 1 coordinator
- 6 staff members

➤ A complete list at <http://enter.coe.int/>

Partners

The Enter! Youth Meeting has been organised in cooperation with the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, the Secretariat of the European Social Charter, and Directorate General of Social Cohesion³, with the support of the Department of Foreign Affairs of the Flemish Government, Youth Express Network, Open Society Foundation and together with other experts such as representatives of the European Youth Forum.

Outcomes and follow-up

The main outcomes of the Enter! Youth Meeting were the feedback and the input participants provided for the development of the policy recommendation. But the Enter! Youth Meeting did not stop there! Other outcomes were:

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

³ As on 18 September 2011

- neighbourhoods
- An increased know-how on youth consultations
 - A video
 - A report
 - Possible follow-up projects developed by the participants

The revised policy recommendation is to be presented to the Joint Council on Youth and – upon the agreement of the latter, put forward to the Committee of Ministers as a recommendation to the Member States.

The message has been developed by the participants to be sent at a later stage the Committee of Ministers.

II. SESSIONS & OUTCOMES

1. MEETING FRAMEWORK

The framework

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

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

Three expert seminars complemented the long-term training course and provided relevant insights for a youth policy recommendation, namely the Seminar on Gender

Equality in Youth Projects (Strasbourg, June 2010), a Consultative Meeting on Youth Information and Counselling (Budapest, June 2010), and the Seminar on New Ways of Participation in Multicultural Youth Work (Budapest, June 2010).

A joint conference was held together with the Directorate General of Social Cohesion of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg in July 2010, within its project on Social Mobility.

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

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

The Enter! Youth Meeting and young people

The Enter! Youth Meeting was an international three-day meeting gathering some 180 young people, youth workers, youth researchers, policy makers and representatives of the project partners with the aim to

provide them with the opportunity and the space to voice their opinions, and share their experiences about access to social rights in Europe as a contribution to the development of youth policies in the Council of Europe.



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

Within this context, the involvement of young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods in the project was foreseen in a large-scale event – the Enter! Youth Meeting, through which young people from across Europe met, provided input to and feedback on the policy recommendation and further discussed access to social rights from a youth perspective.

The meeting was considered and seen as an opportunity for young people to develop their intercultural skills and to plan or initiate their own activities.

2. WELCOME

Wednesday 14 September 2011	
18:00	Welcome address by: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Gabriella Battaini-Dragoni</i>, Director General of Education, Culture and Heritage, Youth and Sport, Council of Europe;• <i>Kostyantyn Gryshchenko</i>, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, Chairperson of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe; and• <i>Antonia Wulff</i>, Chair of the Joint Council on Youth

The session took place in the plenary room of the European Youth Centre in Strasbourg. Institutional representatives considered of utmost importance to emphasise the particularity and the relevance of such initiative within the overall Enter! process.

Gabriella Battaini-Dragoni Director General of Education, Culture and Heritage, Youth and Sport Council of Europe⁴ addressed the audience with a warm welcome, highlighting the importance of such issue and the institutional commitment for active and participatory youth policy.

Underlining the important role of the co-management system with governmental and non-governmental

⁴ As on 18 September 2011

partners, Gabriella Battaini-Dragoni reiterated how seriously the Council of Europe takes the difficulties that many young people face across Europe today as well as the conviction that social inclusion for *all* young people is of capital importance for the survival of our democracies.

As a vivid example of the work done around the issue of social rights, the Enter! project was developed as a response to situations of discrimination, exclusion and violence affecting young people; situations where young people are stigmatised for being young and for being associated with a particular neighbourhood. If the Enter! project linked youth work, youth policy actions and projects of young people themselves, it also involved local authorities and youth workers as to best respond to local needs.

The Enter! Youth Meeting was about to start in a 40-year old European Youth Centre, symbol of a common house for all young people in Europe, a meeting space to create and learn together and to practice democracy.

Kostyantyn Gryshchenko, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, Chairperson of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe⁵ welcomed the participants stressing on the great significance of such meeting for the institution. Recalling the difficult times Europe goes through, times of economic and social crisis, times of unemployment, of difficult living conditions or even of social exclusion, he nonetheless highlighted how the level of participation to this meeting gave the Council of Europe many reasons for optimism.

⁵ Ibid

Many young people in Europe do not have the chance to fully enjoy their human rights or have reasons to believe that they are left behind. All young people deserve better prospects. If 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*, then the purpose of everyone's presence is to voice their opinion, to share experiences regarding the access to social rights, and contribute to the development of youth policy.

As Gabriella Battaini-Dragoni before him, Kostyantyn Gryshchenko recalled the utmost importance of the participation of young people in the decisions that concern them as one of the pillars of the youth policy of the Council of Europe.

In 2011, the Council of Europe celebrates the 50th anniversary of the European Social Charter. This Charter was created to protect the social rights of everyone in their daily lives and covers fundamental rights, related for instance to housing, health, education, employment, free movement and non-discrimination.

Enter! focused on the awareness of social rights and on human rights education as a tool to prevent further human rights violations. However, awareness of equal dignity is not enough. Indeed, young people should also feel empowered and motivated to take action for their own future as citizens in their own right. For this reason Enter! deserves a special attention; sincere congratulations go to the youth workers who participated in the long-term training course and to the projects of the participants, which did improve the social rights for more than 1,200 young people and overall reached over

15,000 people. Such actions and projects stand out as examples of courage and participation.

Kostyantyn Gryshchenko ended on recalling how important participants' contribution to the work of the Council of Europe will be, recommending what the institution should do to bring social human rights closer to young people.

As Chairperson of the Committee of Ministers, he reaffirmed his commitment to an active and participatory youth policy, to protect the values of democracy, human rights and the rule of law.



Antonia Wulff, Chair of the Joint Council on Youth⁶, welcomed the participants and shared some information

⁶ Ibid.

The Joint Council on Youth brings the CDEJ and the Advisory Council together in a co-decision body which establishes the youth sector's priorities, objectives and budgets.

about the co-management system as a way to foster greater youth participation.

The co-management involves representatives from youth non-governmental organisations sit on committees with government officials who together, work out the priorities for the youth sector and make recommendations for future budgets and programmes. These proposals are then adopted by the Committee of Ministers, the Council of Europe's decision-making body.

As more information were to be provided the following morning, she wished again a warm welcome to everyone, looking forward for the cooperation in the coming days.

3. OPENING

Thursday 15 September 2011	
9:00	Introductory activities at the Palais de l'Europe.
10:30	Introduction by Rui Gomes. Opening of the Enter! Youth Meeting – Room 1 in Palais de l'Europe - with: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Antonia Wulff</i>, Chair of the Joint Council on Youth;• <i>André Schneider</i>, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe;• <i>Ralf-René Weingärtner</i>, Director of Youth and Sport of the Council of Europe;• <i>Soumiya Sihabi</i>, Conseillère municipale, City of Strasbourg;• <i>Rami Al-Khamisi</i>, Megafonen project (Sweden), participant in the Enter! Long-term training course for youth workers.

The official opening of the Enter! Youth Meeting took place in a different setting: the Palais de l'Europe. Symbolic and no less important, the 'House of Democracy' was the most appropriate place to wish the participants a fruitful work and to reiterate the institution's commitment to participatory youth policy development.

After a first introduction by *Rui Gomes*, Head of Education and Training Division of the youth sector and

Enter! project coordinator, on the reasons for having this opening at the Palais de l'Europe, **Antonia Wulff**, Chair of the Joint Council on Youth, officially launched the Enter! Youth Meeting.

Building on the previous day's short introduction, Antonia Wulff recalled the co-management principle within the youth sector of the Council of Europe.

An example of what youth participation means for the institution, the Enter! project was the result of a discussion between youth organisations and the members states through their Ministers and governmental representatives about how to address such complex and difficult issues.

For Antonia Wulff, Enter! did show what the European Youth Centres can do, what young people can accomplish as well as the enormous possibilities such a place offers. Access to social rights is one of the problems young people face nowadays and the co-management wished to support Enter! as an attempt to give a voice to those who probably need the biggest support. Policy makers also need help. 'We are here to try to help them understand what it is like living in Europe today as a young person' said Antonia Wulff. Because there tends to be quite a distance between the lives young people live somewhere in a corner of Europe and the life of the Council of Europe as an institution, Antonia Wulff and all stakeholders were 'extremely glad to have all participants here today, and several days ahead to discuss what do we really want to do.'

Antonia insisted 'The Council of Europe wants to know, wants to learn, Enter! is our process and nobody else's. We are here because of what we represent, what we can bring to the process. This is now our opportunity to let

them know’.

André Schneider, member of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, continued by underlining how important it is for everyone present to feel like at home ‘no matter who you are, whatever are your habits, the colour of your skin, where you are coming from and whatever is your religion’. To the Parliamentary Assembly and considering that access to social rights – especially in disadvantaged neighbourhoods, is one of the most important issue to work on, the Enter! project represents a crucial initiative carried out, to wonder and reflect upon how to include young people in today’s world. ‘Youth is the present but especially the future, the future of Europe’, said André Schneider.

Summarising the recent work of the Council of Europe partly through numerous recommendations, he also insisted on the fact that the fight against any form of discrimination remains one of the crucial issues of the institution’s agenda.

Enter! had the mission to prepare young people to combat situations of violence, exclusion and discrimination, to prepare them to act as citizens. As highlighted in a report which led to a recommendation presented to the Committee of Ministers for a youth rights convention, the access to social rights is a challenge and more difficult nowadays than any other youth-related issue. The autonomy of young people is increasingly threatened due to geographic, socio-economic and cultural reasons. Policies unfortunately do not access the source of the exclusion of young people, and this is what the participants of the Enter! Youth Meeting were expected to focus on, where efforts

needed to meet so young people can access all their rights without barriers and obstacles of any sort.

Ralf-René Weingärtner, Director of Youth and Sport of the Council of Europe⁷, also welcomed the participants to the Enter! Youth Meeting, opening his address highlighting how symbolic was the presence of everyone in the framework of the Enter! project, representing what the latter stands for: dealing seriously with the problems of young people in accessing their social rights.

The Council of Europe is the guarantor of human rights in Europe, rights which are more than legal texts and courts. The respect of all human rights - including social rights, is the condition for living together in dignity. 2011 marks the 50th anniversary of the European Social Charter, which was created to guarantee the respect of social human rights. The Charter formulates rights that are particularly important for young people, such as the right to employment, housing, health, education, social protection, and non-discrimination. Nowadays, many young people face obstacles in accessing their social human rights. Many are unemployed and in some European countries this problem concerns almost every



⁷ Ibid

second young person. The reality is that many young people are facing more difficulties than their parents did. This endangers the future of our democracies in its deepest sense: people's security is threatened by social exclusion, discrimination or violence and young people are most at risk to experience these problems, to experience injustice and stigmatisation.

Hence, the Council of Europe believes that youth policies should secure equal opportunities for all young people, to become autonomous and enjoy the rights of democratic citizenship. We also believe that the best insurance policy a society can have is in self-confidence, optimism and involvement of young people.

Alongside this principle, the Council of Europe has been working with and for young people for forty years, basing its work on very fundamental principles: youth participation, intercultural learning and non-discrimination, human rights and citizenship education.

The Enter! project started three years ago because of a will to show that there are alternatives to discrimination, exclusion and violence, especially in disadvantaged neighbourhoods. The Enter! project was based on the knowledge that youth work can provide new and effective solutions to social exclusion and stigmatisation. The Secretary General of the Council of Europe recently reminded that politics 'is about lifting up those who have been left out, or have been left behind.' Such message is also important in the context of the Enter! project: improving the living conditions in disadvantaged neighbourhoods can also be an enormous source of economic growth, social cohesion and well-being for everyone.

Ralf-René Weingärtner ended by inviting the participants to comment on the policy text that is being prepared for the Committee of Ministers, and which will eventually be sent to the 47 member states. Though some may think that this will not change anything in the lives of young people and even though the task is indeed a huge one, [we] are not starting at zero; there are many politicians and institutions who are already engaged in the struggle for a better future for all of us.

Soumiya Sihabi, municipal councillor of the City of Strasbourg, took the floor to welcome participants. She started clarifying that she herself comes from a so-called 'disadvantaged area' though she doesn't like such a term. For her and before all, we rather talk here about favoured areas, areas full of cultural richness, of diversity, of skilled and competent persons.

For Soumiya Sihabi, young people need to stand up, to stop underestimating themselves. This was her call: everyone is competent and everyone can do something. She recalled the young Tunisians, the young Egyptians, those who woke up to make a change. 'Equality of rights – equality of duties'; young people have to stand up.

Is it really so that young people are the future? If yes, how can they act if they are not given the possibility to exercise their rights? Policies ought to guarantee that recommendations and decisions are applied and respected. The inclusion and cooperation with young people is crucial and several projects of the city of Strasbourg do intend to involve them in numerous initiatives.

Indeed, to fight against discrimination, to work for the access to social rights, for diversity and multiculturalism forms part of the values of the Council of Europe, and

Soumiya Sihabi highlighted how much she looked forward to the results of the Enter! Youth Meeting.

To close this official opening, the word was given to an Enter! project participant, **Rami Al-Khamisi**.

Last week I got a phone call from Rui asking if I could talk here today about why I choose to apply to take part in the Enter course. Well, to be honest with you, the reason why I applied was that I actually knew that 2 years later I would be standing here in this amazing building in front of 200 people from all Europe talking about my work! Of course I had to apply! So Rui thank you for asking and after this speech I can finally say that I have succeeded with the Enter! course!

Since immigrating from the war in Iraq as a child, Sweden has been my home country for the last 17 years. Today I am 23. I have been lucky to being raised up in one of the world's richest countries. Sweden is not only one of the richest countries but also often described as one of the most equal and democratic societies in the world. With this in mind, I have since I was a kid asked myself why there are so many people around me finding themselves in trouble and why things - especially in my neighbourhood - are just getting worse? How come that my parents don't have a work to go to every morning, why are my friends not graduating from school and how come that we as children never spoke about being doctors or lawyers but only football players?

Later I found out that my parents were not the only ones with immigrant background who were discriminated and didn't get a fair chance to a job, that my friends didn't drop out from school because they were too cool, but because they found it hard and didn't get the right support. And the reason because I never had a friend

who became a doctor was because none of us really believed that we could make it.

Having Sweden's highest number of unemployment and drop of schools among young people in our neighbourhood are just some of the facts, which are in front of the media, politicians and scientists in Sweden. They are the ones who discuss, write, debate and take decisions, which they believe, will be good for us.

But it's a fact that my neighbourhood has been disadvantaged at least since I was born and still, things are getting worse. So I ask myself if it will just continue like this and for us who live there to accept that the same people with the same old structures will be the ones who continue to take decisions over our heads, and ignore our need of being included in the decisions that affects us more than someone else? But I have learnt that not having the possibility to speak up and tell your story, will not make someone feel sorry for you; the story will just be told from someone else in their own perspective far beyond your reality. And this will affect you, whether you like it or not.

So why don't we young people living in this neighbourhood get a fair chance to describe our reality, define our own problems and find out ways of make things better for ourselves? Should we not at least give ourselves the possibility to understand why things are as they are? Is it because we are unmotivated and stupid from birth or is there an environment and unjust structures that make our lives in the disadvantage more difficult than others'?. It's only fair to be aware of the consequences of living in such a neighbourhood and understand that you probably are not living under the same conditions as the majority of the young people? This will make you realise that before the game starts

you will automatically be down three to zero, so you better start fighting harder if you are to come back into the game or you probably humiliate yourself and lose BIG!



What we in Megafonen try to do is to create platforms to allow the young people to be critical; to be aware, discuss and feel empowered to raise their voice. By using own media platforms through newspapers, website, and arranging seminars and different activities on social rights, we have managed to create an atmosphere in the area where more young people are getting encouraged and take the possibility to be active and take part in the debate which often is about them, not with them. This has also made young people realise that there is space for them if someone really wants to reach out to them. This work has been progressing for the last 3 years and we are still working hard to reach out to more young people. Because the more people we can organise the more impact and power we have in making people listen to us.

The LTTC introduced the purpose of working with social rights. The course and people I met during these years encouraged me and made me believe even more that the work we did in my neighbourhood was needed and something special. I also understood that we were not the only ones fighting for the social rights for young people in the disadvantaged neighbourhoods around Europe. Every time I left a seminar from this course I felt empowered to fight harder and organise us better. I believe that a huge problem is that there is a big gap between policy makers and the young people. The Enter! course has helped me to better understand the role of a youth worker and how we could play an important role to change this.

The growing poverty and the struggle young people have to access their social rights is a common problem around the disadvantaged neighbourhoods in Europe. Therefore I think that the Council of Europe has an important role, by spreading the information about social rights and reach out to the young people in the disadvantaged neighbourhoods. Also by making sure that the perspective of young people counts in the decision making all over Europe. I wish that more young people living in disadvantage could get the same possibility as me to come here to develop and learn things they can bring back to their realities. I believe that the only way of a long-term change has to come from the people that are being disadvantaged. Therefore we need policies that encourage more young people to be more active and make them feel that they could be the ones that can change things. Every young person will find him or herself in a process going from passive and curious to a person ready to take action and contribute to the society. I will just finish by reading a quote from one of my favourite Swedish authors, Sven Lindqvist: "You already know too much, so do I. It's not the knowledge we lack

but the courage to realise what we already know and take conclusions from it”.

Therefore for us young people, having our families, brothers, sisters and friends living in this neighbourhoods, it's obvious that we don't have an option not to care or not to do anything. Or we will be finding ourselves in twenty years time, seeing things getting worse and wishing that we had done something when we had the chance to do so?

So let's start to fight the injustice from today and maybe we will have a better justice tomorrow!

I hope that we during these few days can get to know each other, share our experience from our realities and discuss how young people can make a bigger impact around Europe.

I hope you can enjoy your time here and make friends for life. I would also finish by congratulating and thanking the Council of Europe for arranging such a youth congress gathering young people from all Europe.

4. SHARING REALITIES AND EXPERIENCES OF PARTICIPANTS' NEIGHBOURHOODS

Thursday 15 September 2011	
14:30	Programme of the meeting and practicalities: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Information about the European Youth Centre, by Tina Mulcahy.• The process of the message and the policy recommendation, by Rui Gomes.
15:00	Sharing realities and experiences from participants' neighbourhoods --> the Fair

Before being given the space to share information about their projects, experiences as well as a space to express their ideas, requirements, and opinions about access to social rights and what the Enter! Youth Meeting meant, the participants were being given some information about the programme and the work around the policy recommendation and the message, which they will work on in the coming days.

Introduction

Tina Mulcahy, Executive Director of the European Youth Centre in Strasbourg shared a few words about the place, its aim and objectives, its 'reason to be'. The

Directorate of Youth and Sport of the Council of Europe main mission is to bring human rights to every country in Europe. Part of this work takes place in the European Youth Centres (EYCs) in Strasbourg and Budapest. Such centres are there to support young people to voice their needs and concerns.

The mission of the EYCs is also to facilitate networking and to support activities such as training on human rights education, for instance, or such as the residential seminars of the Enter! long-term training course. Tina ended on few practicalities and technicalities related to the meeting.

The process of the message and the policy recommendation

What are the policy recommendation and the message about? How will participants' contributions be taken into account? How will the follow-up look like? Many questions which have been answered.

Rui Gomes recalled that the common denominators for defining a *disadvantaged neighbourhood* upon which the whole Enter! project was based are: *exclusion, discrimination and violence*. Young people and beneficiaries of the Enter! project have also worked alongside those pillars during the implementation of their local projects and thus, had a lot to share with their peers from all over Europe.

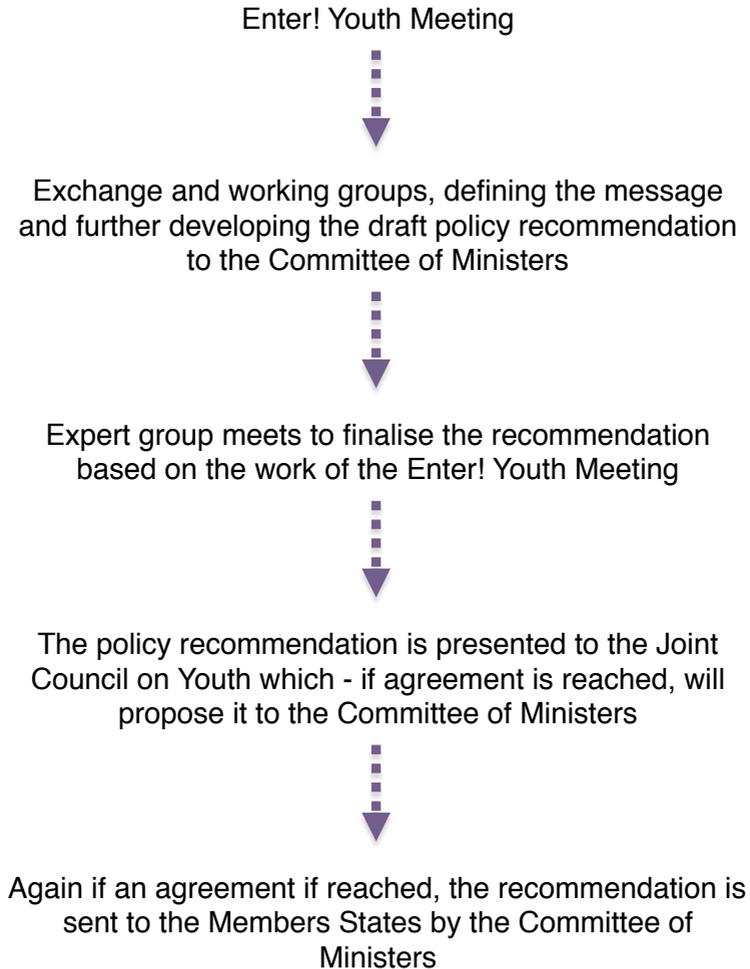
Moreover, the Enter! Youth Meeting was also an opportunity for the participants to realise that the problems they face in their neighbourhoods are common across the continent and that coordinated efforts aim at

the betterment of their lives, wherever they reside. Further information about the policy recommendation and the message as well as the next steps of the process were then provided, leaving the space for questions and clarifications.

The message of the Enter! Youth Meeting participants was about what they wish to express to the Committee of Ministers. It was therefore totally different from the work on the guidelines for a policy recommendation. The message had to take into account the context of the Youth Meeting and transmit the ideas, opinions and requirements of the participants to the Committee of Ministers and the Parliamentary Assembly. The message ought to reach the consensus of all the participants, at least to the greatest extent possible.



The overall process of the recommendation – different from the above, was planned as follow:



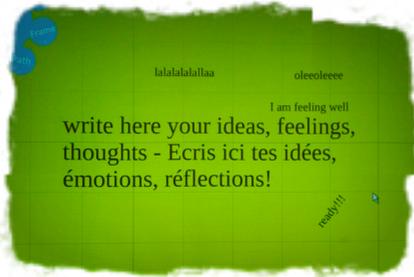
The fair

Space for exchanges and information was then open. Participants organised their time freely and prepared posters and display of information accordingly.



The aim was of course to provide the group of participants with sufficient time and space to get to know each other and each other's work better and to generate exchange of experiences.





As a transversal activity, a computer connected to a projector was made available as to provide participants with the opportunity to write down and project their

impressions, thoughts, feedback about the work they do, the challenges they face, and their message.

The session ended with a closing and wrapping up which consisted in sharing various impressions as well as the messages participants wrote during the fair.



The fair surely gave the opportunity to tackle issues such as access to space for leisure time activities, approaches in formal education and the contents of the curriculum,

forms of discrimination, examples of projects at local level, amongst many others.

The motivation and interest of the participants in getting to know others realities was an important aspect of the Enter! youth meeting. That dimension was relevant not only to further develop networking possibilities but also to 'simply' acknowledge that existing commonalities throughout Europe which can unite actions and initiatives.



5. THE MEANING OF SOCIAL RIGHTS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE TODAY

Friday 16 September 2011	
9:45	The meaning of social rights for young people today - introduction by <i>Régis Brillat</i> , executive secretary to the European Committee of Social Rights.

What do we mean by ‘social rights’? What does this mean for young people living in every corner of Europe? Régis Brillat provided his vision of social rights, shared his doubts about the currently used classifications of rights and provided participants with some useful information about legal contexts and procedures.

Régis Brillat, executive secretary to the European Committee of Social Rights⁸ welcomed the participants with a singular though relevant question, given the nature of the meeting: do such things as social rights exist, or aren't we talking of human rights?

For Régis Brillat, words such as ‘access to social rights’ can be understood in several manners and we ought to make sure that no matter what term we opt for, we talk about the same thing and share definitions. Involving the

⁸ Website of the European Committee of Social Rights: http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/socialcharter/ecsr/ecsrdefault_EN.asp

audience, Régis Brillat asked what do the participants understand by human rights and social rights?

Here is a sample of a few answers:

Human Rights

- are rights that ensure that people live knowing that they are people and not things or animals, such as the right to be healthy.
- are universal disregarding where one lives. We talk about rights one has when born and that no one can take away.
- are made for human, more specific while social rights are rather for the society as a whole, they are more general.
- are inalienable rights with constraints for and by the state.
- are about the right to live in dignity.

Social Rights

- depend on society.
- are about the right to work, to have social security. They are linked to the society and are more connected to an organised community
- link to dignity, as for human rights!
- involve making sure that every person receives equal amount of attention, welfare by the state, no matter one's social background, ethnicity and religion.
- are perhaps more linked to the word 'equality' because they have to do with the society, and in democratic societies, rights are for everyone, there is a sense of equality.

If those rights are interlinked and are defined by similar patterns and principles, how do we work with those two classifications?

Human rights can be divided into two categories: civil and political rights (which may be seen as human rights) and social and economic rights (which may be seen as social rights).



A few months after the creation of the Council of Europe in 1949, the United Nations adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This is so far the most important text that explains which rights are to be considered as human rights, being civil, political, economical and social rights. But the declaration is not binding for the states; it is rather a political declaration. In order to make these rights concrete, there was a need to incorporate them into a binding treaty.

Back in 1949, the first ambition was to draft a text to that effect. A first draft of the European Convention on Human Rights has been prepared by the European Movement, which mainly consisted in a copy of the list of rights as they appeared in the Universal Declaration. But if the states did agree on civil and political rights, they did not when it came to social rights.

Eleven years later and to better guarantee social rights, the European Social Charter was developed; we now celebrate its 50th anniversary. But even though the reason for such distinction can be understood, Régis Brillat stated once again that he doesn't accept it, for *all* those rights *are* human rights.

Considering those explanations and involving the audience once more, Régis Brillat asked for new examples of social rights and human rights. It rapidly appeared that the distinction is indeed rather difficult to make. The right to education is a human right. What about religion? What about the difference between the freedom to believe and the freedom to exercise? Is there any? Is there also a difference between rights and freedoms?

It is sometimes said that civil rights are more liberty-free. They are linked to freedoms and not to rights as such. Nonetheless, social rights are rights. Should we make any distinction? For Régis Brillat, one very important issue is whether the state has to be active or passive in terms of – for instance, freedom of religion. On the one hand you have rights and freedom and the state is expected to abstain from intervening, and on the other hands you have those where the state is requested to take action. Perhaps the difference lies in how much the action or distance costs to the society. People who do accept this distinction are those who see civil rights as

those where what is mainly requested by the state and the society is no interference, no action.

However, social rights do require positive action from authorities and we have to question whether this is 'right' or 'wrong'. For instance, talking about the right to a fair trial as one of the civil rights: the categorisation is correct. But if so, does it require the state to abstain or rather to take action, to train higher judges, to create tribunals throughout territories, etc?

Both civil and social rights require actions, and therefore it isn't an easy task to try differentiating them.

Régis Brillat continued sharing some information about the European Social Charter. To his view, the rights in the Charter are exactly the same type of rights as in the European Convention on Human Rights. The fact that some rights are in one treaty or another is a political decision taken back in 1949 but we have to consider this a provisional situation.

The European Social Charter is a Council of Europe treaty which guarantees social and economic human rights. It was adopted in 1961 and revised in 1996. The Charter sets out rights and freedoms dealing with issues such as: health, housing, education, employment, social protection and non-discrimination. The Charter also establishes a supervisory mechanism - the European Committee of Social Rights, which guarantees their respect by the signatory states. The Committee makes a legal assessment of the conformity of national situations with the European Social Charter and the related documents such as the 1988 Additional Protocol and the Revised European Social Charter. It adopts conclusions in the framework of the reporting procedure and decisions under the collective complaint procedure. The

states which ratified the Charter submit annual reports showing how they implement them in law and in practice.

Who can lodge complaints? For all the states which have accepted the procedure, the organisations which can lodge complaints are the following:

1. The European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC), Business Europe (formerly UNICE) and the International Organisation of Employers (IOE);
2. Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) enjoying participatory status with the Council of Europe which are on a list drawn up for this purpose by the Governmental Committee;
3. Employers' organisations and trade unions in the country concerned;

However, some states have also agreed to add:

4. National NGOs.

A total of 43 states have ratified the Charter (either the 1961 Charter or the revised version). The states which did not are Liechtenstein, Monaco, San Marino and Switzerland.

Rights which require positive action by a state have to be ensured through technical, legal and financial measures for them to be effective. How to assess if they are respected? This is where the distinction between the European Convention on Human Rights and the European Social Charter comes. The European Court of Human Rights has no competence in the field of those rights guaranteed by the Charter. Indeed, you are not entitled to launch an application before the Court if you claim that your social rights are violated. The possibilities

are therefore to address the European Committee of Social Rights whose task will be to decide whether a country respects the Charter or not.

What can we do and what should we do in order to make access more effective? There are four conditions:

1. **The right itself must be clearly described.** It must be enshrined in a legal text on a very clear manner. As far as social rights are concerned, such text is the European Social Charter.
2. **Awareness, knowledge of the right.** This is where we should try and work together. Today's meeting is very important because it will raise awareness on social rights and it is everyone's daily task to make sure that all citizens know their rights. As participants, you are from now on ambassadors of the Charter.
3. There ought to be a **procedure at national level which allows citizens to enjoy their rights.** Again, we all have the possibility to be active by witnessing what is going on and claiming that more should be done to let people know what their rights are.
4. A legal remedy: if everything goes wrong despite the first three conditions, **people should be able to claim their right before a court.** Again, you should help people around you to access court and claim for their social rights.

Régis Brillat ended his intervention highlighting that the Council of Europe and every citizen should aim at what was the original goal in 1949: to have one single treaty where all human rights are integrated.

Questions and answers

Q1: from the United Kingdom point of view, the Human Rights Act of 1998 comes straight from the European Convention on Human Rights. If the information are well understood, the legal remedy is the British Court. However and when it comes to social rights, we need to come back to the European Committee of Social Rights? Is there no other legal remedy in the United Kingdom?



A1: Yes and no; the situation is a bit more complex. The 1998 Act incorporates the European Convention on Human Rights but not the European Social Charter. This means that judges can't take decisions based on the Charter. Nonetheless, the distinction isn't that 'crystal clear' and the European Court has already interpreted several rights in the Convention as also guaranteeing social rights, including an assessment based on the Charter.

The same approach has been applied in the UK. So, starting from no, you may reach some parts of yes.

Q2: What is my right if I have to pay for it? Like health or education?

A2: If you have to pay and if you cannot afford it, you do not enjoy your right. According to the Charter, primary and secondary education must be free of charge. After secondary education, fees can be requested but support mechanisms for those who can't afford paying them must be ensured. Under the Convention, discrimination in access to university based on economical reasons is amongst the violations of human rights. Again, we need to know that texts exist and know how to use them.

Q3: Social rights are part of human rights. If so, then why using so vastly such terms as in Enter!? Does this means a change of philosophy?

A3: The concept of social rights does exist, but not necessarily the wording. In some cases, using specific wording may emphasise the type of rights which are addressed or learnt. But it may be dangerous if such wording is used in order to establish different types of importance of the rights.

Q4: How the Council of Europe can assure that such rights are respected and implemented in various countries? Because [at least] in Europe there are about three or four major models such as the liberal one where social rights are not inscribed in the constitution but under another Charter; the Southern approach where rights are vastly inscribed in the constitution but hardly implemented practically because of limited means. We have the central approach where rights are partially inscribed in the constitution though yet those are welfare states.

A4: The ambition is not to have a single 'model' or one legal system. We have no solution, we have no model. Every country must choose how they decide to implement the rights. What is important is that whatever solution is taken by a state on a legal, social or political

point of view, the human dignity of everyone is respected.

Hence, we will not question the constitutional or the legal organisational system of a country. What is at stake is whether human dignity is respected. And that can be achieved whatever legal system we have. When it comes to foreign citizens, this is a big challenge. We know that human rights of foreign citizens are not fully respected in Europe. But again in that field; do the rights of foreign people belong more to civil and political rights, or to social rights? This is another example where the distinction between the categories is meaningless.

Q5: Young people are ambassadors for the implementation of the Social Charter. But in fact, what are the instruments that we, actors in NGOs, can use? Because besides the four countries who did not ratify the Charter, numerous other countries do not fully implement or respect the Charter. What can we do and how?

A5: States have a role to play, they have a 'positive obligation' to act. But human rights are not only about the relation between the state and individuals, but between individuals and organisations as such: the so-called horizontal effect of human rights. The state defines a framework, but individuals also have a role to play in respecting human rights.

We can't help you much; the Council of Europe can't really give you subsidies or financial support, but it can provide tools and the space to develop projects such as this one.

But again, what is important is to understand that human rights are not only about the respect of human dignity but

also the way we consider each other and how to live together in society.

➤ For more information about the European Social Charter: <http://www.coe.int/SocialCharter/>



6. WORK ON THE MESSAGE AND THE POLICY RECOMMENDATION

Friday 16 September 2011	
15:00	Introduction to the draft recommendations on access to social rights for young people.
15:30	Working groups on the draft recommendation.
Saturday 17 September 2011	
9:30	Working groups on recommendations and the message from the Enter! Youth Meeting.

Working groups on the message to the Committee of Ministers

Key in the process of the Enter! Youth Meeting, the work on participants' message to the Committee of Ministers represented an important session as well as the basis for the work on the policy recommendation.

Divided into nine working groups, participants elaborated their work in different phases:

- a) Recalling the work carried by their organisations on access to social rights;*
- b) Highlighting the challenges they face;*
- c) Defining what the message should focus on.*

Some groups also went through Régis Brillat's input and tried to identify the conditions which should be guaranteed as to meet the rights they would like to highlight in their message.

The message was then compiled by an editorial group and presented in the plenary the following day. After a general debate, exchanges and further bilateral clarifications, the message was then finalised.

Besides the entire version of the final message, what follows is a summary with extracts of some of the working groups' outcomes.

→ The work done by participants' organisations

- Projects aiming at fighting racial prejudice;
- Projects focusing on integration – cultural differences, youth exchange;
- Work with young people with disabilities;
- Work with Roma young people;
- Projects tackling [basic] human rights for young people;
- Projects against discrimination;
- Activities aiming at spreading information about rights and how to access them through cultural and youth exchange activities.

→ The challenges young people face

- Unemployment, irregular and precarious jobs;
- Social segregation of various neighbourhoods and quarters;
- Lack of cultural, sport and leisure facilities, of structures;
- No multi-level approach;
- Media leading to labelling and encouraging segregation, racism and prejudices;
- Bureaucracy and government regulation mechanisms (corruption that leads to stop believing in social change);
- Policies which do not support access to social rights;
- Lack of information to and among young people generate the need for a bigger focus on those topics within formal and non-formal education;
- Conservative thinking prevents flexibility;
- Lack of understanding of young people's situations and realities;
- No communication between the state and young people;
- Discrimination, racism, nationalism;
- Access to infrastructure (e.g. disabilities);
- Obstacles and no comprehensive process towards integration;
- Young people doubting their possibilities → lack of self-confidence;
- Young people's voices are not heard or not listened to.

To illustrate some of these points, participants shared examples of their contexts and living situations. Some participants spoke about the social segregation and isolation of certain neighbourhoods and the case of a large number of immigrant populations in the area was

also brought up. The participants from both Strasbourg and Mulhouse emphasised the negative role of the media in segregating and encouraging racism and a negative image of the young people from outskirts by speaking about 'urban crime'.

Participants from the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia agreed that media play a vital role in the image of the community. They noted that in their neighbourhoods media often falsely represent the situation by making it look better than it is, and thus contribute to the neglect of the authorities.

While in Finland there were no acute problems with the living standards due to the social welfare, problems of discrimination - especially on the ethnic grounds, do exist. The participants focused on the high rates of unemployment among the young people with immigrant backgrounds, which happen due to several reasons such as those related to the diploma and the fact that those of immigrants are often not recognised, or problems with Finnish language, and domestic racism.

In Cyprus, the society is seen as not mature enough as to accept that some people need more support than others, for instance people with disabilities. The awareness is increasing but still up to recently there were hardly any infrastructure to support children with disabilities.

In Estonia, one important problem is surely the urbanism phenomenon. For employment reasons, most people try to live and work in the capital: 30% of the total population nowadays. Less and less people live in rural areas and the state investment decreases drastically, which results in worsening social rights in rural areas.

→ **What should be done (first brainstorming related to the recommendation)?**

By the Council of Europe

- Support projects that inform young people about their rights and ways of implementing them;
- Organise more meetings and youth exchanges on the local, national and international level;
- Have a closer communication with the politicians and decision-makers. A possibility to have a regular meeting with the youth representatives, so that the politicians have a better idea of the realities;
- Make recommendations to governments about some challenges young people face;
- Create expert groups, which would analyse the situation and challenges in different countries;
- Create more intercultural spaces and promote existing ones, such as schools, community, culture, leisure and sport centres in order to give the young people from different social, ethnic and cultural backgrounds an opportunity to know each other;
- Commit to funding projects;
- Have a monitoring group to check that rights for young people are implemented on the national level;
- Promote meetings between young Europeans;
- Inform governments about the challenges young people face;
- Oblige governments to respect young people's rights;
- Support the ideas of young people.

By participants' organisations

- Have a closer communication with the politicians and decision-makers;
- Organise projects to inform young people of their rights;
- Continue working with programmes for young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods;
- Cooperate with networks of youth organisations;
- Work with schools.

By individuals

- Inform peers;
- Volunteer in disadvantaged neighbourhoods;
- Be a good example;
- Do exchanges and learn from other people.

→ **The contents of the Message**

While reflecting on what the message should address, participants came up with a list of topics to be taken into consideration when elaborating the narrative part:

- Learn from what they have done before and build on this;
- Provide more concrete information;
- Push for equality;
- Protocol with ministry of education to distribute and disseminate information;
- More pro-active games & activities on rights;
- More training on local level;
- Networking! (sharing experience and practices etc.);
- Give voice to young people;
- More use of media;
- Representatives should transfer information also on local level;
- Social media/ networks;

- Easy and youth-friendly media;
- Council of Europe - TV - in different languages;
- European Youth Foundation - priority on media on local level;
- Facilitate debates about the work of the Council of Europe in different countries.

They also considered what should be their role in addressing and working on those issues:

- Promoting inclusion;
- Respecting difference;
- Don't give up;
- Be the multipliers.

On the same wave of drafting actions needed to highlight the points of the message and while defining some of the most important rights to tackle, one group did work particularly on what governments should focus on and elaborated a list of possible actions.

The starting point of their work was to state that 'Governments should not focus on consequences and on punishment but rather on the causes and on prevention'.

The actions the group proposed were as follow:

→ Addressing unemployment:

- Priorities should be given to employment possibilities for young people;
- Promote links between businesses, universities and high schools to ensure employability;
- Improve work conditions: no job without a good contract and social security;
- Promote investment and entrepreneurship of young people;
- Invest in job creation.

→ Drugs and alcohol related problems:

- Make alcohol and cigarettes more expensive;
- Make alcohol and cigarettes less accessible at schools and in youth clubs;
- Make access to alcohol and cigarettes go together with information and support services if needed (e.g. street workers, counsellors etc);
- Support psycho social services and/or telephone support services.

→ Young people with disabilities:

- Ensure accessibility to buildings and facilities, housing;
- Ensure transport facilities (public transports) for disabled people (reaching a school or health centre for example);
- Promote leisure activities for and accessible to disabled people;
- Ensure schooling possibilities for disabled youths;
- Support psychosocial services and/or telephone support services.

→ Housing:

- Develop a good and accessible credit system/ policy as to make housing affordable and accessible.

→ Healthcare:

- Make it accessible!

→ Discrimination:

- Provide better laws addressing discrimination;
- Ensure gender-based violence victims shelters and develop campaigns to promote gender equality.

- Education about human rights and social rights:
- Awareness through media campaigns;
 - They should be included in educational programme;
 - Ensure network of information centres or ombudspersons;
 - For governments to promote and inform the citizens about its policies promoting and protecting young people's rights (and how to access them?);
 - Support NGOs in campaigning against discrimination and implementing educational/ awareness raising projects.



- Education:
- More qualified teachers in school systems to avoid discouraging young people from studying 'at home' and going abroad to have quality education.
- Cultural problems:

- Promote and allow cultural diversity.

→ Environment:

- Education about environment problems;
- Have more qualified persons working on environmental issues who can act as multipliers towards young people.

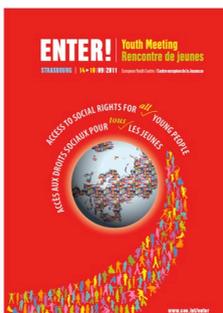
→ The final message



DJS/Enter! Meeting (2011) 10

MESSAGE

to the Council of Europe



This message was developed by the participants of the Enter! Youth Meeting that was held in the European Youth Centre in Strasbourg from 14 to 18 September 2011. The meeting gathered 180 young people, youth workers, youth researchers and policy makers to share their experiences and voice their opinions and expectations about access to social rights as a contribution to the development of the youth policy in the Council of Europe. Enter! is a project developed by the Directorate of Youth and Sport of the Council of Europe aiming at improving the access to social rights for young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods.

We, the participants of the Enter! Youth Meeting, want to share our experiences and views about the access to social rights for all young people. Sharing similar experiences of growing up in Europe, many of us in disadvantaged neighbourhoods, we want to highlight the difficulties young people have in accessing their social rights.

All young people in Europe today should grow up and live under the protection of the Council of Europe's human rights system. The 50th anniversary of the European Social Charter is an opportunity to make it more effective for the future generations. As active and committed young people, we are concerned about the living conditions and prospects for many young people across Europe today, especially those whose human rights are most threatened or denied, such as young people living in segregated and disadvantaged neighbourhoods.

United by similar needs and expectations caused by the stage of life we are in, young people form a group in society that needs specific political attention. This is not always recognised and we are seldom seen as political partners in decision-making that concerns our situation. Instead, we are often portrayed in negative terms, seen as the problem rather than part of the solution. This is wrong!

We are united also by the experiences of failed policies and more importantly by our daily local actions; we need your help in support through the implementation of tangible and long-term measures for and by young people. Allow us and the future generations to fully enjoy our social rights!

Recognise us, for we're the solution.

We are committed to making a positive change in our communities; we expect the Council of Europe and its member states to be equally committed to improving the access to social rights for all young people through:

1. Implementing sustainable youth policies at local and national level that are based on social rights
2. Raising the attention of member states to the challenges faced by young people in accessing their social rights and to call upon them to seriously address them
3. Regular and consistent monitoring of the obstacles young people face in accessing their human rights at local, national and European level, notably through national youth policy reviews, and involving non-governmental youth organisations
4. Realising and valuing the potential and creativity of young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods, including in the artistic, social, and cultural fields
5. Setting up and supporting local youth councils and youth advisory mechanisms as examples of good practice and to ensure democratic participation as well as the involvement of local authorities
6. Facilitating closer communication and cooperation between decision-makers and young people
7. Providing human rights education through formal and non-formal education, including accessible and decentralised information about the rights in the European Social Charter

8. Securing the right to free education, through the provision of quality education and vocational training for all - regardless of legal status - advise and counselling for young people and the democratic governance of schools
9. Ensuring that all schools are a supportive environment for learning and free from violence
10. Providing quality and affordable public services, especially in disadvantaged neighbourhoods, including free health care, affordable housing, access to water and sanitation
11. Paying special attention to gender-based discrimination, particularly the obstacles to the equal participation of young women
12. Effectively addressing discrimination, stigma and prejudices that young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods face, including the combined effects of multiple discriminations
13. Adopting specific measures to secure the rights of young people with disabilities and particularly vulnerable groups such as Roma, the homeless, offenders and those in care institutions
14. Paying particular attention to ensuring social rights of young undocumented migrants, asylum-seekers, internal displaced people and refugees
15. Launching a Europe-wide youth campaign against all forms of discrimination and racism
16. Promoting and creating opportunities for intercultural and interreligious dialogue and exchange in public spaces such as schools, community, culture, leisure and sport centres

17. Addressing the causes of exclusion and violence through prevention, not punishment and repression
18. Recognising the role of youth work and of young people in promoting social rights and providing accessible funding and support for their projects through simplified procedures
19. Developing specific programmes for employment and entrepreneurship of young people
20. Promoting and supporting youth mobility programmes addressed to young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods.

Youth meetings like the one we have attended at the European Youth Centre are exceptional learning opportunities. The outcomes of the Enter! project need to be consolidated and followed up. More young people in Europe should benefit from projects and meetings like this.

Exclusion, violence and discrimination are not inevitable.

Working groups on the policy recommendation to the Committee of Ministers

Similar to the process of the message, the work on the recommendation happened in nine working groups.

As explained earlier in this report, a group of experts met previously to draft guidelines for a policy recommendation. The working groups at the Enter! Youth Meeting were therefore using this draft as a basis for their further contributions.

The core aim of the recommendation is to address, holistically, the socio-economic problems faced by young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods while also reinforcing the importance of every young person's social rights. Indeed, young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods are routinely stigmatised and excluded by mainstream society, which affects their chances of obtaining employment, maintaining educational placement, securing housing, receiving health care, and social needs.

The work on the recommendation naturally built on the points highlighted and tackled in the message.

In each working group and with the support of the facilitator and of the youth workers, participants were reminded the aim and objectives of the message as well as what the procedure consisted of (as explained by Rui Gomes). If needed, the space was first given to questions for clarification as to verify whether everyone was familiar enough with the topic and comfortable with

the process. Then, the participants proceeded once more in several steps:

- a) General discussion about what would change in their realities if the recommendation was to be implemented?
- b) Do those guidelines and recommendation respond to actual needs and propose effective solutions to current problems and challenges?
- c) Can they link their local projects and/or actions to some of the recommendations (are there in line)? How would they promote their implementation?
- d) Review of the message and of the proposed recommendation.

↗ The list of proposed guidelines and recommendation (version of 10 May 2012) is available on page 101.



→ General comments

The guidelines and the recommendation were seen as not new by some participants and to some extent, quite general. However, most of the groups agreed with the general approach and with most of the contents, though amendments or – in some cases, more detailed explanations were needed.

Some participants highlighted that the challenges mentioned referred to the gap between existing laws and the reality, the low political will of local authorities and the fact of not being able to freely use mass media. One group also questioned the absence of reference to human rights education. Indeed, the group members believed that human rights education needed to be clearly mentioned in the recommendation, in both non-formal and formal education settings and institutions and NGOs, but most preferably as to become part of the school curriculum.

If the guidelines provided a certain idea on what had to be done, they did not seem as solid as to be implemented as such; for instance, they should also have indicated how to work with vulnerable communities. So far, the guidelines rather followed a top-down approach and did not really tackle the very local reality and related challenges.

Some reflections also questioned using the term 'disadvantaged' which seemed to rather stigmatise a community.

Most of the proposals on the recommendation highlighted the need for a stronger focus on education and training activities, the main idea behind being to not only equip youth workers and young people with the

necessary competences and skills, but also to enhance awareness-raising mechanisms and processes about access to social rights. Education also related to employability and to situations of discrimination that young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods face. CV and procedures should be made easier and volunteering as well as non-formal education experiences should be taken into consideration.

Linked to employment, the need for more transgenerational meeting as well as mechanisms for adults and young people to meet and learn from and support each other were also raised.



Other proposals already present in the recommendation but to be better highlighted were those related to the responsibility and role of the local authorities. Access to social housing, especially for those coming from disadvantaged neighbourhoods and with

extremely limited resources, should become a priority. Measures for dialogue and cooperation between young people and local authorities should be created and/or adjusted as to avoid conflicts and misunderstanding.

Linked to that and to the local communities, more intercultural encounters and meeting spaces should be organised.

In order to develop initiatives better adjusted to the realities of young people living in disadvantaged

neighbourhoods, analysis of racism and situations and factors of exclusion should be conducted.

Space for more leisure time activities should also be guaranteed, such as free access for everyone to youth houses, youth clubs, concerts, sport activities, and multicultural events, the objective being to better overcome stereotypes, prejudices, and taboos.

Funding for projects should also be simplified and accessible; procedures should be quicker.

→ **Proposals related to the points of the drafted guidelines and recommendation.**

While working on the recommendation, participants provided specific input on each point, either on the wording or on the content.

(a) Where appropriate, to eradicate poverty among young people to enable them to enjoy their fundamental citizens human rights;

- Emphasise the access to employment for young people as the best way to eradicate poverty;
- Delete 'where appropriate' or define what is 'appropriate'. Delete 'citizens' and 'human' before 'rights'.

(b) To combat discrimination in the access to social rights by young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods, taking into account the multiple dimensions of this discrimination and its cumulated effects;

- In schools, include the topic of discrimination, its consequences, and the risks related to it into the curriculum. This would allow young people to feel empowered to speak against discrimination;

- Develop awareness campaigns against discrimination;
- Add specific points on the importance of partnerships and of funding for youth work;
- Add a point on the need to organise events;
- Add a point on the need for specific youth services.

(c) To improve the living conditions of young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods, by securing accessible and affordable public services in the fields of education and training, information and counselling, employment, housing, health, security, sports, leisure and culture;

- National and local authorities ought to support training social workers working with young people in disadvantaged neighbourhoods and with a specific attention to topics linked to [access to] health care;
- Add the information centres to the list of services.

(e) To promote meaningful opportunities for consultation and participation of young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods in all matters related to urban planning and management of their living environment;

- For those in charge of youth centres/clubs/meeting points, to organise debates and reflections spaces in order to find solutions about the life conditions in the neighbourhoods.

(f) To ensure that Roma young people and their families are considered a full part of society and of the communities in which they live and to reduce the levels of poverty, exclusion and discrimination affecting them;

- To extend the recommendation to minorities, disabled people, LGBTQI and other vulnerable groups.

(j) To improve access to work as well as quality apprenticeships and vocational training opportunities for young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods by encouraging cooperation with local businesses and enterprises and the development of social economy;

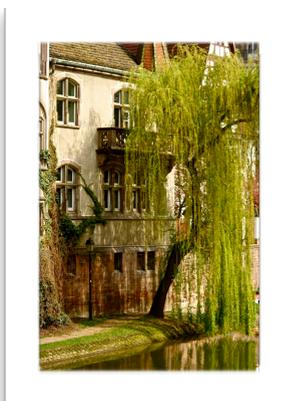
- Encourage young people to do internships outside their community to later on come back and share their experience, act as multipliers.

As for the message, the work on the recommendation took place over two days. On the general consensus of the participants, points to remove, further detail, amend or add, the drafted guidelines and policy recommendation would then be revised by the expert group to be presented to the Joint Council on youth.

7. A TREASURE HUNT IN STRASBOURG?

Or how to discover a city in a different way...

The idea to discover the city in a different way led to developing a gigantic 'Treasure Hunt' or 'Rally'. Participants were divided in 10 different groups. Each group was going to see many different sides of the city, such as the historical part, the European part, local life of youth and students, some places dedicated to inclusion.



Each group was given a task, a list of questions to be answered about the things they saw. In many cases the answers were to be found through a careful observation or through reading the touristic tablets though in some others, asking the local population was necessary.

8. CONCLUSIONS AND CLOSING WORDS

Saturday 17 September 2011	
14:15	Presentations of the groups' conclusions
14:45	Conclusions by <i>Filipa Menezes</i> , general rapporteur
15:00	Reading of the Message from the Enter! Youth Meeting
15:15	Closing session with: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Antonia Wulff</i>, Chair of the Joint Council on Youth;• <i>Eunice Campbell-Clark</i>, Rapporteur on the integration of young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods, Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe;• <i>Ólöf Ólafsdóttir</i>, Director of Education and Languages in the Council of Europe.
16:15	Participants' video of the meeting

Presentations of the conclusions of the working groups

The Enter! Youth Meeting was an intensive three-day event. Discoveries, exchanges, networkings, working groups, a message, revised guidelines and recommendations, and institutional commitment to supporting young people and their access to social rights were all ingredients of what happened in the European Youth Centre from 14th to 18th of September.





The last morning was the moment to not only go through the last version of the message and open the floor for last comments but also for the groups to represent the contents of what they considered key in the message and in the recommendation.



As to avoid discourses and debates, music, sketches and performances were chosen as to voice the message of young people of the Enter! Youth Meeting.

Conclusions by the General Rapporteur

Loads of notes and photos were taken, videos were being realised, but if all this will undoubtedly remain valid and be used once the door of the EYC would close on this first edition of Enter!, the challenging task to summarise all what happened while highlighting the core issues and moments was given to **Filipa Menezes**, the General Rapporteur.

Filipa Menezes started recalling what the Enter! project was about: ‘the two-year project aims at “developing youth policy responses to exclusion, discrimination and violence affecting young people in multicultural disadvantaged neighbourhoods”. It is seen as a vehicle to develop the impact of non-formal education interventions in relation to the social rights of young people on European, national and local youth policy realities.’ As to emphasise the overall duration and all the milestones of the projects, she also went through the calendar of Enter!.

As part of the overall process but also seen as the ultimate part giving the floor to young people themselves, the Enter! Youth Meeting was before all an opportunity to get to know more about European young people, their realities and challenges, to look at the specificities of young people with a particular focus on those living in disadvantaged areas, to value the strengths of the youth projects. The Enter! Youth Meeting was also the moment to look at what should be done and who should do it? This process led to the development of a message and of a revision of the recommendation.

While developing on youth realities and constraints, Filipa Menezes highlighted the following, punctuating the points with quotes from participants:

- Unemployment;
- Low salaries and job instability;
- Lack of academic qualifications for accessing better paid jobs or further studies, like the university;
- Lack of services, information, advising and education support, like scholarships;
- No parenting support: 'if the parents educate well their children will manage'; 'some spend too much time in the street without anything to do';
- Lack of voice and participation: 'young people get frustrated and do stupid things like burning cars';
- No leisure places, specially for girls: "there is the park but it is only for boys";
- No access to affordable or social housing;
- Put through many forms of violence: 'The fact that a woman is obliged to stay home is an act of violence';
- Isolation, lack of opportunities and discrimination that exist in the actions and in the words;
- Images of antisocial behaviour: crime, drugs, alcohol.

The European specificities going along the challenges young people faced or in other words, the reasons behind the current situations, were identified as follows:

- Natural catastrophes consequences (like earthquakes);
- Former Soviet Union countries and the transition to a market economy;
- Internal conflicts, religious and legal persecution;
- Dictatorship and propaganda constraining the role of the NGOs;

- Young people running away from their home countries;
- Universal rights are not the same – like the access of the undocumented to health care;
- The issues of the rural areas or the ‘banlieues’;
- Social benefits that exist in one country but not in the other affect how young people see disadvantage.

Filipa Menezes found important to raise the issue of ‘disadvantaged’ which came back several times throughout the whole meeting. Many participants indeed asked ‘What is disadvantaged’?

Indeed, questioning the wording, participants also wondered whether this is not another label that does not make justice to the fact that they are the solution and not the problem.



As a response to those situations and challenges, the strength of youth projects seems to remain unquestioned and worth of further investment. For if projects promote

the cooperation with local authorities and enhance the participation and involvement of the young people, they also offer concrete learning experiences for developing learning capabilities and social skills. Youth projects do promote learning democracy and citizenship, and often reach fulfilling results at the personal development level, even though with few resources. Through projects, intercultural dialogue breaking discrimination happens. All this supports building up self-confidence, knowledge about human rights, legitimacy, ease the access to funding and generate mutual support and broadens horizons.

Considering the work done on the message and on the recommendations, Filipa Menezes wished to highlight again the utmost value of young people, of youth as a resource. Several aspects require a particular attention, such as:

- The tendency in youth policy to 'put everything in the same bag' needs to be changed into a more personalised approach of each young person: immigrants, ethnic minorities, gender, ages, undocumented, and refugees, among others;
- The 'hidden groups' should be made visible so that they can be helped, namely the persons with disabilities
- Working with young people is also a tool to change mentalities and social relations;
- A multilevel approach under the youth policies is crucial;
- We ought to make social benefits equal in Europe so that *all* young people can benefit from the same support;
- We are all involved: youth workers, youth centres, local authorities, teachers;

- Tolerance is not the same as integration. Integration requires solidarity among all.

Her impressions on the recommendation led to defining the remaining challenges and to the fact that the most important is of course *how* those are going to be implemented. There is a need for further debate on the limits and potentials of the 'joining in' approach.

The recommendation and the contributions from the participants surely address the 'informal' or 'emotive sides' of discrimination: how to turn this into concrete measures? How to articulate with mass media and change the image of youth? The professional recognition of the youth workers is also a constant challenge and efforts need to be put as to further support youth work and non-formal education.

On a call for supporting and developing projects for *all* young people, Filipa Menezes ended her conclusions.

Closing words

After a reading of the message and some space for the last comments to finalise it, the moment to close the Enter! Youth Meeting came. Before projecting the short version of the video to be edited by Nisi Masa, the floor was given to several institutional representatives to restate their support and commitment to further working on access to social rights for young people and in particular for those living in disadvantaged neighbourhoods.

As she opened the Enter! Youth Meeting, **Antonia Wulff** took the floor to close this three-day event. She started recalling a movie scene where a young girl asks whether this is the end. The answer she gets is that ‘no, this is only the beginning’. And this is how Antonia Wulff felt at that moment. Time has come to now wonder how to go on, how to build on the brilliant work done once we all go back home, back to our communities.

Fundamentally, this is a process of participation, a process about young people’s rights, about getting their ideas and opinions and about shaping the society we live in, wherever this society is. We are going back to societies where things are not always as easy as we would like them to be. We’ll go back to local authorities, to friends: how to share our experience, the Enter! experience with them who most probably followed a very different path?

How do we take advantage of this message? Antonia Wulff believes that this is a message that she can use, that we can all use, and that the trust the logo of an institution such as the Council of Europe is to be used! A logo on a message developed by more than 150 young

people from all over Europe and which focus on situations which desperately call for improvement.

These days have shown some of the amazing things young people can do, the enormous contribution and value of youth work when it comes to working towards improvement. We ought to remember this! But we also have to keep in mind that in spite of all this, the responsibility to ensure access to social rights is not ours: it is the one of the governments, of the states who promised us certain rights. Indeed, the lack of access to social rights for young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods is not our fault and we have to remind our decision makers about this.



Antonia Wulff highlighted that she is aware of the ongoing debate about the terms used such as 'disadvantaged neighbourhoods'. If she hoped that such debate will go on, she also wished that in spite of the negative connotation those may have, it was a conscious

decision to opt for the term 'disadvantaged' from a structural perspective rather than ending in having young people calling themselves 'disadvantaged' which would then end in stigmatising the society and the people as such though blaming them for the situations and the realities we live in. We need to work on structural changes.

Going back to actions to be made, she ended her conclusion by highlighting the commitment of the institution and the Joint Council on youth in particular to follow up the work done during these three days. The expert group in charge of the drafting process of the recommendation will meet in the next days to revise the version taking into consideration the contribution of the participants.

The floor was then passed to **Eunice Campbell-Clark**, rapporteur on the integration of young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods, Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe.

She started her conclusive words by asking the plenary for self well-deserved applause. She felt honoured for having had the opportunity to listen and share young people's aspirations and dreams for now and for the future.

Eunice Campbell-Clark represents the Congress since 2006 and she had the privilege to go to numerous countries where she would never have expected to go. Hence and while talking about words: words are just words; what matters is their meaning and in this case, a meaning of change. Taking the plenary through a little journey throughout the 47 member states, she highlighted that no matter where we are coming from, we all want the same things. We can look at discrimination

in disadvantaged neighbourhoods, in schools, wherever, but in the end, we all call for the same changes and the same rights.

In her work and in her community, Eunice Campbell-Clark is very often addressed with questions, aspirations and needs from her constituency, some she can deliver, and some she can't. This is key in the process: we need to make sure that the context of the proposal for the recommendation is something the Congress can deliver. It is not about wording, it about the substance of making a difference in our lives, countries, communities.

Eunice Campbell-Clark declared being extremely proud of what she listened to, of the work done and of what young people have to say about what they and the Council of Europe can do for making a change.

Politicians do hear, they do listen. But this is a tall order that we are giving, the one to make a significant change for our future. Congratulations.

The last words were given by **Olöf Oláfsdóttir**, Director of Education and Languages of the Council of Europe. As her predecessors, she wished to express her appreciation and thanks to everyone for the proposals and conclusions of the groups, the results of three days of hard work. She reiterated the commitment to take the results further and make sure that those are taken into account by the Committee of Ministers and in the future work of the Council of Europe with young people. The results of the work done will particularly be important in the frame of the preparation of a recommendation of the Committee of Ministers to the member states, regarding a better access of *all* young people to social rights.

As Antonia Wulff, Olöf Oláfsdóttir also believed that the way this meeting was conducted is an example of what youth policy and youth participation is about.

Talking about education, she stated that we of course all want 'quality education' and make this a right for everyone in Europe. 'Quality education' means not only good teachers and good classrooms for all, but also includes education for democratic citizenship and human rights. 'Quality education' informs about young people's rights, and aims at giving you the skills to stand up for your rights. Nonetheless, what matters in the end is that young people – present or not, are ready to contribute to the life of the community; ready to work on solutions for collective problems; ready to raise their voice. Youth organisations are one very good way to organise that, and this is why we are co-operating so closely with them.

Olöf Oláfsdóttir continued highlighting the efforts structures such as the European Youth Centres and the European Youth Foundation will keep on putting on supporting key projects.

Europe is of course not immune against social unrest, discontent and alienation. When an individual is deprived of his or her rights, the cohesion of the society is at risk. Many young people in Europe are taking to the streets. Many because they have education, but no jobs. And those without education and jobs are even worse off. Social conditions in parts of the big cities of Europe are another telling story about unequal distribution of wealth and opportunities. The living conditions of Roma people and their communities are a further proof of this. Sadly, the richest continent in the world has several 'third' and 'fourth worlds' in its midst.

We therefore need bold and innovative approaches to secure the best protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, and the protection of social rights is a cornerstone in this undertaking. Society will only function when it can guarantee the same rights, including social rights, to all individuals. Social *injustice* is a threat to peace and stability, whereas social *justice* is the best peace broker and peace builder.

Olöf Oláfsdóttir closed her intervention sharing good news: Before closing, I can share some good news with you: the Enter! project on access to social rights of young people will continue in 2012 and 2013 and many of the ideas formulated during the Enter! Youth Meeting will find their way into the new format of the programme,



She wished to thank once again everyone for the participation and the contributions, and particularly the trainers and youth workers in the Enter! Long-Term Training Course, without whom this meeting would not have been possible.

The video of the Enter! Youth Meeting

As announced at the very beginning of the meeting, a video is to be edited by Nisi Masa. The short version - the 'appetiser', was then shown before the departure to the boat trip and the farewell evening.



➦ To watch the short and longer versions of the video:
<http://vimeo.com/31716950>

III. APPENDICES

The Programme

Wednesday, 14 September

Arrival of participants

14:00 Self-managed and welcome activities in the European Youth Centre (EYC)

18:00 Welcome address by *Kostyantyn Gryshchenko*, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, Chairperson of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, and *Gabriella Battaini-Dragoni*, Director General of Education, Culture and Heritage, Youth and Sport Council of Europe

19:00 *Dinner*

21:00 Enter! Welcome

23:00 *Departure of bus for Forum Hotel*

Thursday, 15 September

08:15 *Departure of participants from Forum Hotel and the European Youth Centre to the Palais de l'Europe*

09:00 Introductory activities at the **Palais de l'Europe**

10:30 Opening of the Enter! Youth Meeting – Room 1 in Palais de l'Europe - with:

- *Antonia WULFF*, Chair of the Joint Council on Youth
- *André SCHNEIDER*, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe
- *Ralf-René WEINGÄRTNER*, Director of Youth and Sport of the Council of Europe
- *Soumiya SIHABI*, Conseillère municipale, City of Strasbourg
- *Rami AL-KHAMISI*, Megafonen project (Sweden), participant in the Enter! Long-term training course for youth workers

11:45 Group photo at the Palais de l'Europe

12:15 *Walk to the European Youth Centre*

12:45 *Lunch*

14:30 Programme of the meeting and practicalities

15:00 Sharing realities and experiences from participants' neighbourhoods

16:00 *Break*

16:30 Sharing realities and experiences (continued)

19:00 *Dinner*

21:00 Social, cultural, sport and educational activities, including *Enter! Game on Social Rights*

23:30 *Departure of bus for Forum Hotel*

Friday, 16 September

08:30 *Departure of participants from Forum Hotel to the EYC*

09:30 Welcome

09:45 The meaning of social rights for young people today - introduction by *Régis BRILLAT*, Executive Secretary to the European Committee of Social Rights

10:15 Access to social rights for young people – how to improve it?

11:00 Break

11:30 Access to social rights for young people (continued.)

12:45 *Lunch*
Reimbursement of travel costs (Palais de l'Europe)

15:00 Introduction to the draft recommendations on access to social rights for young people

15:30 Working groups on the draft recommendation

17:30 Treasure Hunt in Strasbourg

20:30 *Dinner*

Saturday, 17 September

08:30 *Departure of participants from Forum Hotel to the EYC*

- 09:30 Working groups on recommendations and the message from the Enter! Youth Meeting
- 12:30 *Lunch*
- 14:15 Presentations of groups' conclusions
- 14:45 Conclusions by *Filipa MENEZES*, general rapporteur
- 15:00 Message from the Enter! Youth Meeting
- 15:15 Closing session with:
- *Antonia WULFF*, Chair of the Joint Council on Youth
- *Eunice CAMPBELL-CLARK*, Rapporteur on the integration of young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods, Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe
- *Ólöf ÓLAFSDÓTTIR*, Director of Education and Languages in the Council of Europe
- 16:15 Participants' video of the meeting
- 16:30 Departure from the EYC – Boat trip
- 20:00 *Dinner and farewell party at the EYC*
- 00:00 *Departure of the first bus for Forum Hotel*
- 02:00 *Departure of the second bus for Forum Hotel*

The list of participants

Participants

ALBANIA

Rifat Demalija

Doriana Gjuta
Vladimir Gashi
Biba Besmir
Aida Selmanaj

ORGANISATION'S NAME:

**"Youth in Free
Initiative" organisation**

ARMENIA

Karen Mkhitarian

Hasmik Karapetyan
Ani Dokhoyan
Narek Pahlevanyan
Gayane Grigoryan

ORGANISATION'S NAME:

**Caucasian Institute for
Peace Problems
Research -CIPPR**

AZERBAIJAN

Agshin Asgarov

Rufat Shamsiyev
Ruslan Bakhisov
Oktay Amanullayev

ORGANISATION'S NAME:

**Human Rights in the XXI
Century-Azerbaijan**

BELARUS

Igor Zagumionnov

Aksana Lediadz
Raman Maroz
Yuliya Zykava
Maxim Weise

ORGANISATION'S NAME:
SCAF Youth Center

BELGIUM

Lysiane Schmitz

Doneta Krasniqui
Adelina Sadiku
Demiri Fatlume
Omar Beysoultanov

Organisation's name:
Ville de Namur

BULGARIA

Tania Tisheva

Georgi Dimitrov
Daniela Kanalieva
Diana Borisova
Yanko Georgiev
Antonia Fileva Radeva

Organisation's name:
**Bulgarian Gender
Research Foundation**

ESTONIA

Merli Antsmaa

Annika Urbel
Janely Rohumagi
Glen Liventaa
Madis Karlson

Organisation's name:
**Eesti Erinoorsootöö
Ühing noOR**

FINLAND

Samiuela Elone

Mia Mendolin

Fiona Elone

Christian Angelov

Yasmine Medarhri

Organisation's name:

**City of Helsinki Youth
Department**

FRANCE

Fadela Aouir

Chafik Sellimi

Sarah Belmedi

Myriam Belmedi

Farid Djellouli

Hanza Haridi

Inan Renkilay

Anas Fathi

Organisation's name:

**Centre Sociale et
Culturel Papin**

Alexandra Boudia

Organisation's name :

**Association ATMF
(Association des
Travailleurs Maghrébins
de France)**

Remadi Ferial

Organisation's name :

ACCOORD

Faiza Smahi

Audrey Meraud

Hind Loussahi

Badia Loukili-Raihani

Organisation's name :
Au-delà des Ponts

Aicha Meneceur
Halimi Meneceur
Nacira Djeddid
Stephanie Pierrot

Julie Mercier

Organisation's name :
AROMPT

Moustapha Bouzait
Amid Khelifa
Morgan Muller
Ceyvat El Bayrak
Alvine Aline
Marky Raharison
Geng Geng
Aedl Valakadfi
Samir Ajouaoui
Kader Keberi

Rémy Bougmiha
Othman Mejri

Organisation's name :
Assemblée des Jeunes

GREECE

Mary Drosopoulos

Organisation's name:
**United Societies of
Balkans**

Elisavet Papadopoulou
Konstantina Loutridou

GEORGIA

Maka Bibileishvili

Organisation's name:
**Human Development
Center**

Chargeishvili Sulkhan
Nodar Tsereteli

IRELAND

Fiona Joyce

Claire McAlinden
Emer Corcoran
Rachel Reid
Michelle Fay

Organisation's name:
**Canal Communities
Regional Youth Service**

ITALY

Christian Meloncelli

Alexander Benitez
Daniel Duce

Organisation's name:
Consorzio Sociale Agorà

LITHUANIA

Gintare Gedrimaite

Paulius Kazakevicius
Raminta Kezelyte

Organisation's name:
**National Institute for
Social Integration**

MONTENEGRO

Iva Celanovic

Jelena Strugar
Miranda Marinkovic

Organisation's name:
**Forum MNE (Forum of
youth and non formal
education)**

PORTUGAL

Dynka Amorim Dos
Santos

Organisation's name:
**Cidadaos Do Mundo/Bué
Fixe**

Nasya Amorim dos Santos
Rosa Nelson
Celinha Monteiro
Ana Filgueiras

ROMANIA

Cristian Bobocea

Loredana Monenciu
Daniel

Organisation's name:
**The Cross Border
Development
Association**

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Fransua Tulikunkiko

Kristina Botkina
Tatiana Pasma
Valeriya Krivosheya
Anastasia Khabarova

Organisation's name :
**Organisation
humanitaire de la
Region de Pskov
"Heureuse Enfance"**

SERBIA

Suzana Kaplanovic

Nikola Pavlovic
Marko Milovac
Vesna Zagorac

Organisation's name:
Red Cross Belgrade

SPAIN

Elisa Michelin

Nikola Pavlovic
Marko Milovac
Vesna Zagorac

Organisation's name:
**Casal dels Infants per
l'accio Social als Barris**

SWEDEN

Rami Al-Khamisi

Greta Thurfjell
Vanja Bolme
Nina Ismail
Sewit Senai

Organisation's name:
Megafonen

THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

Elez Bislim

Elena Nesovska
Sibel Bajram
Shiva Sali
Afrodita Rakipovska

Organisation's name:
**Association of Citizens
Sumnal**

Sasho Kochankovski

Teodora Mishevaska
Viki Peeva
Angela Pupkovska
Biljana Bejkovska

Organisation's name:
**Centre for Human Rights
"AMOS" Bitola**

Eleonora Poposka

Bekir Muamedi

Kenan Osman

Aska Sinani

Sarita Redzepova

Organisation's name:

**Journalists for children
and women rights and
environmental
protection**

UNITED KINGDOM

David Aynsley

Shanna Dawes

Jade Carter

Organisation's name:

Childrens Trust Cornwall

UKRAINE

Tetiana Bosyk

Kateryna Havryliuk

Organisation's name:

**Volodymyrets District
Public Youth
Organisation "Special
Youth"**

Preparatory Group

**Pieter Jan Uyttersprot, Consultant trainer,
France**

**Athanasios (Sakis) Krezios, Consultant trainer,
Greece**

Ilaria Esposito, Advisory Council on Youth, UK

**Thierry Dufour, European Steering Committee for
Youth (CDEJ), Belgium**

Sara Ulfhielm, European Youth Forum, Belgium

Brigitte Ludman, Consultant trainer, France

Experts

Nadine Lyamouri-Bajja, Consultant Trainer, France

Alexandra Raykova, Consultant trainer, Bulgaria

Matteo Fornaca, Consultant trainer, Italy

Gisele Evrard, Documentalist, Belgium

Filippa Menezes, General rapporteur, Portugal

City of Strasbourg

Sihabi Soumiya
Municipal Councillor

Council of Europe

Committee of Ministers

Kostyantyn Gryshchenko *Minister of Foreign Affairs of
Ukraine*

Parliamentary Assembly

André Schneider

***The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the
Council of Europe***

Eunice Campbell
Clark *Rapporteur on the
integration of young people
from disadvantaged
neighbourhoods*

Joint Council on Youth

Antonia Wulff *Chairperson of the Joint
Council on Youth*

Secretariat of the European Social Charter

Régis Brillat *Executive Secretary to the
European Committee of Social
Rights*

**Directorate General of Education, Culture and Heritage,
Youth and Sport**

Gabriella Battaini *Director General*

**Directorate of Education and Languages in the Council
of Europe**

Ólöf Ólafsdóttir *Director*

Directorate of Youth and Sport

Ralf-René Weingartner *Director / Directeur*
Ulrich Bunjes *Head of Youth Department*
Rui Gomes *Head of Education and
Training Division*
Mara Georgescu *Educational Advisor*
Menno Ettema *Educational Advisor*
Ruxa Pandea *Educational Advisor /*
Dariusz Grzemny *Project Co-ordinator of the
Enter! Youth Meeting*

Joanne	Hunting	<i>Co- Secretary to the Current Affairs Committee Congress of Local and Regional Authorities/ Assistant</i>
Jackie	Lubelli	

Nisi-Masa (European Network of Young Cinéma)

Leo Bruges: Camera Crew

Olivier Jourdan: Camera Crew

Benjamin Cantu: Camera Crew

Aleksandra Marchenko: Camera Crew

Draft guidelines and recommendation



Strasbourg, 10 May 2012

FOR DECISION

JOINT MEETING OF THE BUREAUS

Strasbourg, 23-24 May 2012
European Youth Centre

**Draft recommendation of the Committee of Ministers to member states
on the access to social rights for young people from disadvantaged
neighbourhoods**

(Revised 10 May 2012)

The Committee of Ministers, in accordance with Article 15.b of the Statute of the Council of Europe;

Considering that the aim of the Council of Europe is to achieve greater unity between the member states, in particular by promoting a common youth policy;

Having regard to:

- The Revised European Social Charter (ETS No. 163), in particular its Article 1 (The Right to Work), Article 7 (The Right of children and young people to protection), Article 9 (The right to vocational guidance), Article 10 (The right to vocational training), Article 11 (The right to protection of health), Article 15 (The rights of persons with disabilities to independence, social integration and participation in life of the community), Article 17 (The right of children and young people to social, legal and economic protection), Article 21 (The right to information and consultation), Article 30 (The right to social protection against poverty and social exclusion) and Article 31 (The right to housing), and the relevant case-law of the European Committee of Social Rights;
- The European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (ETS No. 5), in particular its Article 14 that prohibits discrimination on any ground such as sex, race, colour, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, association with a national minority, property, birth or other status in the enjoyment of the rights and freedoms set forth in the Convention, and the relevant case-law of the European Court of Human Rights;

Recalling Resolution (2008)23 of the Committee of Ministers on the youth policy of the Council of Europe;

Recalling the General Policy Recommendation No.13 CRI(2011)37 of the European Commission Against Racism and Intolerance on Combating Anti-Gypsyism and Discrimination Against Roma;

Recalling the Council of Europe Charter on Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education;

Recalling the following recommendations of the Committee of Ministers to the member states:

- Recommendation (2003)8 on the promotion and recognition of non-formal education/learning of young people;
- Recommendation (2004)13 on the participation of young people in local and regional life;
- Recommendation (2006) 14 on citizenship and participation of young people in public life;
- Recommendation CM/Rec(2011)9 on fostering social mobility as a contribution to social cohesion;

Recalling the following recommendations of the Parliamentary Assembly:

- Recommendation 1437(2000) on non-formal education;
- Recommendation 1864(2009) on Promoting the participation of young people in decisions affecting them;
- Recommendation 1978 (2011) Towards a European Framework Convention on Youth Rights;

Having regard to the following texts adopted by the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities:

- [The final Declaration of the Conference on young people, actors in their towns and regions (Krakow, 7-8 March 2002);]
- The Revised European Charter on the Participation of young people in Local and Regional life;
- Resolution 319(2010) on the integration of young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods;

Having regard to the Declaration and Action Plan adopted by the 3rd Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe in Warsaw (16-17 May 2005) which stated that the Council of Europe would further develop its unique position in the youth field;

Having regard to The Strasbourg Declaration on Roma adopted by the Committee of Ministers CM (2010) 133 on 20 October 2010 in which the member states of the Council of Europe agreed to adopt and effectively implement anti-discrimination legislation, including in the field of employment, access to justice, the provision of goods and services, including access to housing and key public services, such as health care and education;

Having regard to the Final Declaration adopted by the 5th Conference of European ministers responsible for youth in Bucharest (27-29 April 1998), in particular to the references pertaining to youth participation and active citizenship, non-formal education and integration into society and social cohesion;

Having regard to the Final Declaration adopted by the 6th Conference of European Ministers responsible for youth in Thessaloniki (7-9 November 2002), in particular to the references pertaining to the access of young

people, notably those from disadvantaged groups, to information which concerns them and to encourage the development of national youth policies based on general common principles and involving young people and their organisations as much as possible in the elaboration of these policies;

Having regard to the Final Declaration “The future of the Council of Europe youth policy: AGENDA 2020” adopted by the 8th Conference of European Ministers responsible for youth in Kyiv (10-11 October 2008), where the ministers expressed their determination to pursue the objective of ensuring young people’s access to quality education and training, to decent work and living conditions, as well as developing the conditions to enable them to contribute to the development of society;

Bearing in mind the work carried out by the Council of Europe youth sector to promote human rights, social inclusion and active participation of young people and in this context particularly the achievements of the *Enter!* project on access of young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods to social rights, which has been implemented by the youth sector of the Council of Europe from 2009 through 2011 with the active involvement of young people, and the outcomes of which are the basis of this recommendation;

Underlining that the exercise by young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods of their fundamental human rights and their access to quality education, employment, decent living conditions, transport, health care, culture and technological innovations are a prerequisite for their inclusion and participation in society;

Recognising the role of young people and youth organisations in promoting social rights and contributing to social cohesion;

Aware of the increased risk of vulnerability of young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods, especially young Roma people, young migrants, young people of minority backgrounds and those dealing with the consequences of poverty;

Aware of the social determinants of health, in particular the relationship between poverty and the mental and physical health and development of young people;

Being aware that young people's transition to adult and professional life is a difficult process that can lead to further exclusion and vulnerability;

Preoccupied by the increased degradation of the social situation of young people, particularly in the context of the ongoing demographic changes throughout Europe and the financial and economic crises affecting European countries;

1. Recommends that the governments of member states develop and implement sustainable, evidence-based public policies which take into consideration the specific situation and needs of young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods. These policies should aim to prevent and eradicate poverty and social exclusion, and to combat discrimination in access to their social rights through:

- a) Improving the living conditions of young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods by securing accessible, affordable and youth-friendly public services and other measures in the fields of:

- (i). Education and training
- (ii). Employment
- (iii). Health

(iv). Housing

(v). Information and counselling

(vi). Sports, leisure and culture

b) Breaking down segregation affecting disadvantaged neighbourhoods and isolated rural communities, while promoting social inclusion;

c) Promoting meaningful opportunities and programmes for consultation and participation of young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods in all matters related to urban planning and management of their living environment;

d) Ensuring that all young people are considered a full part of society and of the communities in which they live, and are able to exercise their role as active citizens, regardless of ability, age, cultural background, gender identity and sexual orientation, lifestyle, religious and political affiliations, postal code/living area and ethnicity or any other status, particularly for Roma young people and their families;

e) Recognising and supporting the role of youth work, youth workers and youth organisations in preventing discrimination, social exclusion and marginalisation of young people and promoting their citizenship notably through non-formal education;

f) Developing gender-sensitive approaches in the development and implementation of youth policies in disadvantaged neighbourhoods and supporting in particular the capacity-building and participation of young women;

g) Preventing all forms of violence in

disadvantaged neighbourhoods, notably sexual violence as well as gender-based violence;

2. Recommends that the governments of the member states take into consideration and encourage local and regional authorities to take into consideration the guidelines set out in the Appendix when formulating and implementing their policies;
3. Recommends that the governments of the member states report xxxxxx on the implementation at national, regional or local level of this Recommendation, including its appendix.
4. Recommends that the member states ensure that this Recommendation, including its appendix, is translated and disseminated as widely as possible, including among young people using youth friendly means of communication.
5. Asks the Secretary General of the Council of Europe to bring this Recommendation to the attention of the governments of the State Parties to the European Cultural Convention that are not member states of the Council of Europe.

Appendix I

Guidelines for the Implementation of this Recommendation

This Recommendation and its appended guidelines are meant to offer approaches to developing better outcomes for young people with difficult access to social rights, especially those from disadvantaged neighbourhoods. They seek to offer governments and local authorities a framework to challenge barriers faced by young people in all aspects of social and economic life through continued work on social inclusion and encouragement of member states to adopt consistent measures to ensure social rights for young people, especially those from disadvantaged neighbourhoods.

National youth institutions and youth ministries should take a leading role and ensure that youth policy development is a declaration of their commitment to young people, particularly those who are socially disadvantaged and at risk of exclusion, marginalisation and stigmatisation. National youth agencies and youth ministries should incorporate this Recommendation and its appended guidelines into their youth policy framework. They should consult with local and regional authorities and young people in implementing this Recommendation through cross-sectoral and inter-agency partnerships. The promotion of this Recommendation should be undertaken centrally and primarily by national youth institutions and youth ministries with the partnership of local and regional authorities and the involvement of youth organisations.

Youth policy initiatives should be monitored and progress recorded. Central, local and regional authorities should ensure that implemented youth policy retains the focus and intention of this Recommendations. National, local and regional authorities should be encouraged to seek and use evidence based policy in the youth field and also to work in partnership with other member states in developing pilot projects and youth policy initiatives. Examples of good practice should be gathered and further disseminated. Youth organisations and youth workers should develop partnerships at local and regional level so as to ensure the social rights of young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods. Partnerships with

educational institutes, chambers of commerce, trade unions, health organisations and local authority departments should allow youth workers and youth organisations them to strengthen holistic responses to the problems faced by young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods. Most importantly they should continue to advocate on behalf of young people and to work continuously to ensure that the voices of the most disenfranchised and marginalised young people are heard, reached and are given the opportunity to speak and explain their experiences and realities.

This Recommendation and its appended guidelines offer public authorities clear approaches to alleviate pressure experienced by young people due to their economic and social situations. Furthermore, they are a means of informing authorities on how to invest best in the future of young people so as to ensure the construction of a society that is creative, dynamic and sustainable. This Recommendation and its appended guidelines are based on the experiences of the youth work – notably in co-operation with local authorities – of the Enter! project on access to social rights for young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods; they aim to assert that the greatest asset any state has are its young people.

The following guidelines are addressed to public authorities at national, regional and local levels.

a) Means for improving the living conditions of young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods, by securing accessible and affordable public services and other measures in the fields of:

(i). Education and training

1. Make progressive and continuing steps to ensure investment in education and training, particular at the pre-primary, primary and secondary levels and update curricula to make it more relevant for young people of today.
2. Ensure diversity at all levels of education through the provision of equal educational opportunities and free open access to all young people.
3. Education should not depend on the financial

resources of a young person or their family. Support should be offered to young people in education through the provision of free transport, free child care, school breakfast and lunch programmes, free access to books, access to information and communication technologies, including the Internet, access to libraries, after hour access to schools and other educational resources.

4. Ensure the early identification of learning and social problems and provide a wide range of support to prevent young people from dropping out of school.
5. Provide young people who have left or dropped out of education with the opportunity to return and pursue educational courses that are better tailored to their interests and needs. Non-formal education programmes should be used as a means of attracting young people back into education and training. These programmes should be complemented by work-based training aimed at obtaining practical knowledge, thus boosting employability and building confidence and entrepreneurship education.
6. Create life-long learning programmes aimed at valuing young people as important members and resources of society, and developing a continuum of learning which takes account of the personal aspects of a young person's life.
7. Promote the development of non-formal educational partnerships between schools, youth workers and independent youth organisations. These partnerships should include the direct participation of young people.
8. Ensure that school curricula include education for democratic citizenship and human rights education programmes. Youth workers should be encouraged to assist in teaching these programmes to young people.
9. Ensure that all schools are safe learning environments, which are free from bullying, intolerance, segregation and violence.
10. Promote sport as an important activity in maintaining a healthy lifestyle both as a curricular and an extra-curricular activity

11. Ensure that youth health, including sexual and reproductive health, forms part of the school curriculum and that young people have all the information that they require to lead healthy and autonomous lives.
12. Ensure that the needs of young people in schools are heard through promoting the direct participation of student elected representatives to educational management boards and school boards.
13. Promote the training of teachers in intercultural competences, cultural difference, social identity and social issues so as to allow them to engage effectively with young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods.
14. Promote and facilitate mobility between different learning sectors, e.g. between school and non-formal education programmes.

(ii). Employment

1. Ensure that apprenticeship programmes, training and vocational programmes are linked to employment opportunities and have clear progression routes.
2. Ensure that internships and apprenticeships are adequately remunerated in order to be accessible to young people from disadvantaged backgrounds.
3. Provide up-to-date information for young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods on career progression and pathways, training and apprenticeships, both formal and informal, to assist the transition from school or unemployment to employment.
4. Provide work-based learning opportunities in both in the public and private sector for young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods to help further the development of their new skills and to give valuable experience, while increasing their confidence and employability.
5. Local authorities should work in partnership with local businesses, enterprises and trade unions, to develop work experience programmes for young people, which

recognise the merit and value of non-formal education. This would increase confidence and improve the job prospects for young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods.

6. Ensure public access to information technology, through public libraries and media centres, schools or youth centres so as to allow young people to apply for jobs and receive up-to-date information on employment.
7. Create youth competency centres, clubs or groups to assist young people with drafting *curricula vitae* or resumé, job interview preparation and assistance in attending interviews. Community centres, schools and youth centres are all venues which can be used to facilitate this.
8. Local authorities should consider micro financing together with counselling on how to use such financing to create social enterprises or other entrepreneurship schemes for young people (for example, co-operatives), as a means of combating poverty and boosting local youth employment.
9. Local authorities, trade unions and chambers of commerce should encourage private enterprises to offer quality employment initiatives for young people. Local authorities could offer tax or other financial incentives.
10. Local, regional and national authorities should commit themselves to designing youth guarantee policy measures to ensure that no young person is out of education, training or employment for longer than four months.
11. Provide affordable child care and day care facilities in order to allow young parents to return to the workplace or join the workforce. These centres should be designed to be compatible with parents' working hours.

(iii). Health

1. Create health and social centres, based on a primary care model, which would allow young people access

to free medical advice and services. This would simplify the accessibility of health services for young people.

2. Ensure free access to health services for all young people, particularly undocumented young people, Roma young people and any other youth groups at risk of inadequate health care provision⁹. An interpretation service should be provided to assist young people, who do not speak the country's language to communicate with the medical professionals.
3. Create educational awareness, guidance and support on health issues pertaining to drug and alcohol abuse, teenage pregnancy, sexual health, mental health and overall wellbeing. Youth workers, social workers and public health nurses should further promote this awareness in disadvantaged neighbourhoods.
4. Create training programmes for medical practitioners, nurses and community health services' workers on cultural understanding and sensitivity in matters relating to the delivery of medical treatment.
5. Ensure that information on health related issues is available and easily accessible for young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods. This information should be provided in a youth friendly manner incorporating all means of communication including online social networking sites.
6. Ensure that there is widely diffused information on sexually transmitted infections, their symptoms, cure and prevention, the distribution of condoms and information on contraception, crisis pregnancy counselling? and contact information for family planning clinics.
7. Ensure that there is widely diffused information on youth mental health and that there are enough quality

⁹ See, for example, the collective complaint under the European Social Charter of the International Federation of Human Rights Leagues (FIDH) against France, Collective complaint No. 14/2003, decision on the merits of 8 September 2004

youth mental health services.

8. Ensure the involvement of young people and youth workers from disadvantaged neighbourhoods in devising health strategies aimed at young people, as a means of ensuring that health realities for young people from disadvantaged communities are understood and [taken into consideration?][met].
9. Sport and physical exercise should be highlighted and recognised as a preventive measure for future health problems. Local authorities and schools should ensure that there is time for sport and physical exercise and that all neighbourhoods have free and open access to these amenities.

(iv). Housing

1. Ensure that young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods have access to social housing based on their needs.
2. Young people at risk of homelessness should have their housing needs assessed with the view to create and sustain safe living arrangements. There should be coordination between housing and social departments so as to make the process simpler and youth friendly.
3. Local authority inspections of private and social housing should be carried out at the request of a young person prior to occupancy. These inspections should ensure that the accommodation is suitable and that utilities conform to security standards.
4. Young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods are at greater risk of living in sub-standard and precarious privately rented accommodation, of intimidation from landlords and at risk of homelessness. Local authorities should create public information centres on housing as a means of helping young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods to access and to exercise housing rights.
5. "Mixed housing schemes" should be introduced by local authorities as to create diverse communities and equal access to services, while avoiding

discrimination, segregation and creation of ghettos.

6. Local authorities should ensure that the lifestyle of travellers' groups is respected, through the provision of "halting sites". These sites should have clean water, electricity and proper sanitary services.

(v). Information and counselling

1. Create one stop shop centres to allow easier access to information pertaining to career guidance, education, employment, access to information and communication technologies, health, housing and training. Information should be provided in a youth friendly manner and in languages which can be understood by young people.
2. Counselling services should be available to young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods through health centres, youth centres, schools and youth organisations. Information on how to access these services should be widely distributed through all means of communication, including social networks, and in a manner which is youth friendly, confidential and anonymous.
3. Ensure that all counselling services are made aware of cultural diversity. Counselling staff should receive training on intercultural competence so as to meet the needs of young people belonging to minorities.

(vi). Sports, leisure and culture

1. Ensure that all disadvantaged neighbourhoods have designated sports and leisure facilities which are free for young people to access. Young people should be consulted on how these facilities are to be used.
2. Promote the creation of integrated community centres in disadvantaged communities, aiming at promoting diversity and participation in the wider community.
3. Sport should be considered as a means of facilitating non-formal education, particularly in terms of intercultural dialogue, social cohesion and promoting participation. It should take into account the need to

include girls and young women without discrimination of any kind.

4. Cultural activities should be considered as a means of promoting integration and understanding. Young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods should be given every opportunity to participate, as equal partners, in cultural activities.
5. Youth culture should be recognised as a creative and dynamic energy; young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods should be encouraged to be creative and showcase their talents to the wider public. Authorities should allow young people to access public spaces to demonstrate these talents as a means of boosting confidence and challenging the general public's opinion of young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods.
6. Ensure accessibility to school sport and leisure facilities as a means of allowing young people to pursue their hobbies and interests outside of school hours¹⁰.

b) Breaking down segregation affecting disadvantaged neighbourhoods and isolated rural communities, while promoting social inclusion;

(i) "Mobile youth work" should be used to reach the most isolated and disenfranchised young people in disadvantaged neighbourhoods and rural communities. This would allow youth workers to educate young people on their social rights, encourage their participation, assess their needs and advocate on their behalf.

(ii) Create non-formal education projects, for example through sport programmes, to promote dialogue, participation and understanding between different communities, neighbourhoods and rural areas. These

¹⁰ See, for example, the complaint under the European Social Charter of the European Roma Rights Centre (ERRC) v. France, Complaint No. 51/2008 (decision on the merits of 19 October 2009).

programmes should involve the participation of young people, youth workers and youth organisations.

- (iii) Promote a “cross-sectoral approach” at local and regional level to address issues that impact on young people from segregated communities, disadvantaged urban and rural neighbourhoods.
- (iv) Young people living in rural communities should have the same access to public and community amenities as those found in urban areas, such as post offices, community centres and access to information and communication technologies. Where these can not be provided, access to urban amenities should be supported through the provision of a well developed rural transport service.
- (v) Local authorities should look to provide rural employment and training initiatives for young people so as to boost their skills base and increase the creation of local businesses and jobs.

c) Promoting meaningful opportunities for consultation and participation of young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods in all matters related to urban planning and management of their living environment;

- (i) Ensure that the planning process is open, inclusive and transparent, inspired by the co-management system in the Youth sector of the Council of Europe, and that it considers the needs of the local neighbourhood, in particular those of young people. All planning should include the accessibility of public services such as schools, public transport, health centres, food outlets and leisure, sport and cultural facilities. Local authorities should acknowledge the views of young people and treat them as equal partners in the planning process.
- (ii) Public and youth fora, youth and sport organisation meetings and social media sites should be used as fora for young people to be consulted and informed on the urban planning process in their area. Youth workers and democratic, independent and

participatory youth organisations should play a key role in creating awareness and facilitating open debate amongst young people on proposed changes to their neighbourhood.

- (iii) Local authorities should consider a general urban planning project, which would incorporate mixed social housing schemes. This urban planning project should aim to maximise the provision of public services and amenities to all young people.
- (iv) Ensure the provision of facilities, such as youth or community centres, recreational and sports areas. Young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods should be consulted on how these spaces are to be used and organised.
- (v) Fostering the involvement of young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods in participatory youth organisations, by providing youth organisations with adequate and sustainable funding and structural support.

d) Ensuring that all young people are considered as full members of society and of the communities in which they live, and are able to exercise their role as active citizens, regardless of ability, age, class, cultural background, gender identity and sexual orientation, lifestyle, religious and political affiliations, postal code/living area and ethnicity, particularly Roma young people and their families;

- (i). Promote heritage and culture as a means of facilitating wider social understanding of minority communities, to combat discrimination and to appreciate minority communities as valued members of society.
- (ii). Develop youth projects aimed at the promotion of human and social rights for minority young people. All information should be available in minority languages, International Sign Language, Braille, audio format and in large print; the use of information and communication technologies can be particularly helpful in this respect.

- (iii) Mobile youth work, social work services and participatory youth organisations should aim to create social cohesion and intercultural dialogue programmes between minority young people and their wider peer group with the goal of reducing stigma, discrimination and prejudice. These programmes, projects and organisations will also allow young people to describe their social realities while increasing their confidence.
- (iv) Ensure accessibility to all public buildings for young people with physical disabilities, particularly health centres and schools.
- (v) Ensure that Roma young people have free and open access to health services, education and housing and are supported in securing access to their social rights.

e) Recognising and supporting the role of youth work, youth workers and youth organisations in preventing discrimination, social exclusion and marginalisation of young people and promoting their citizenship notably through non-formal education;

- (i) Youth workers and youth organisations should receive support from local authorities on the development, implementation and management of youth projects. Local authorities should ensure that funding procedures are simplified and easily accessible for youth workers and youth organisations.
- (ii) Local authorities should value and recognise youth workers' experience, by consulting them on local and regional policy initiatives aimed at young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods.
- (iii) Local authorities should support the creation of youth forums with the aim of promoting best work practices and evidence-based policy approaches amongst youth workers and youth organisations.
- (iv) Ensure that there is adequate funding for youth work organisations to continue to meet the needs of young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods.
- (v) Ensure funding for youth workers to train continually in an effort to best meet the needs of young people.

(f) Developing gender-sensitive approaches in the development and implementation of youth policies in disadvantaged neighbourhoods and supporting in particular the capacity-building and participation of young women;

- (i) Engage in dialogue with young persons from disadvantaged neighbourhoods and ensure their participation in the development and implementation of policies. This will ensure that the policies are responsive to their needs.
- (ii) Challenge gender stereotypes and roles through the promotion of greater gender equality and equal opportunities for men and women.
- (iii) Ensure that young parents from disadvantaged neighbourhoods have the possibility of continuing education, training or to pursue employment through the provision of services, such as, crèche, day care facilities and bursaries for educational materials.
- (iv) Ensure that young men and women from disadvantaged neighbourhoods have a platform within youth organisations to voice issues specific to them.
- (v) Support and fund groups for young men and women from disadvantaged neighbourhoods, which are youth-run and have a beneficial neighbourhood effect, as a means of empowering and promoting young people and youth leadership, and also to build their confidence.

(g) Preventing all forms of violence in disadvantaged neighbourhoods, notably sexual violence and gender-based violence;

- (i) Create formal and non-formal educational programmes that deal specifically with bullying, violence and gender-based violence in disadvantaged neighbourhoods. These programmes should ensure the active involvement and participation of young

- people.
- (ii) Local authorities, police service, youth justice services and probation services should engage in dialogue with young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods to identify the reasons and solutions to violence and anti-social behaviour in their neighbourhood. This will ensure that programmes and interventions are responsive to their needs and more effective in tackling violence.
 - (iii) Engage in dialogue with young persons from disadvantaged neighbourhoods and ensure their participation in the development and implementation of policies in their neighbourhoods to tackle gender-based violence. This will ensure that policies are responsive to their needs.
 - (iv) Explore the possibility of creating a mentoring service aimed at assisting young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods in gaining important life management skills.
 - (v) Create opportunities for girls and young women to get training in self-defence methods.
 - (vi) Take measures, create and support programmes and initiatives aiming at re-integration of young offenders, prevention of hate speech and hate crimes.

Glossary of Terms

Youth Policy

Youth policy is a strategy implemented by public authorities with a view to providing young people with opportunities and experience that are likely to improve their successful integration into society and to enable them to be agents of changes. It involves four dimensions referring to domains which cover all aspects of young people's lives: 1) "Being in a good shape" (physically and mentally), 2) "Learning" (informal, non-formal and formal), 3) "Participation" 4) "inclusion". Youth policy may combine different means of intervention (legislation, specific programmes, etc.) and integrates an educational approach on a long-term perspective. Youth policy targets all young people but should pay special attention to socially, economically and culturally vulnerable young people.

Disadvantage

As in the Enter! project, disadvantage can be defined as denial of or lack of access to the tools needed for self-sufficiency and sustainability. It can be viewed as a process whereby mainstream society acts in a way that disadvantages a particular group or groups. People may find themselves disadvantaged to the extent that they are denied or deprived of access to and use of tools available to the majority of members of the society. These include independence, incentive, responsibility, self-respect and respect from others, community support, health, education, information, employment, adequate financial support, capital, responsive support systems and participation.

Disadvantaged Young People

Defining disadvantaged young people as young people who are disadvantaged economically does not entirely answer the question of what it is to be a disadvantaged young person. Disadvantaged young people are young people who are not participating in education, training or employment. Disadvantaged young people are those who are growing up in foster care without adequate future plans. Disadvantaged

young people can be described as those who come from an immigrant background and have limited proficiency in the host nation's language, they can be young people who are at risk of leaving secondary education without a diploma, they can be at risk of homelessness, sexual exploitation and early drug abuse. Disadvantaged young people are those who are former juvenile offenders at risk of re-offending or delinquency. They are young people who are disabled and unable to access services because of special requirements and needs. Disadvantaged young people are those who are one of the most marginalised groups in society. Disadvantaged young people are those who are either deprived or denied the tools and supports available to members of the mainstream of society.

Disadvantaged Neighbourhood

Disadvantaged Neighbourhoods are areas or communities in which young people experience deprivation, exclusion and marginalisation in an area and are trapped by poverty, lack of opportunities and risk of exclusion.

Moreover Disadvantaged Neighbourhoods can lack important infrastructural spaces and services for young people therefore impinging on their life chances and future development. These infrastructural spaces and services include among others youth centres, schools, sports, cultural and public spaces, health centres, employment centres and training agencies as well as local enterprises and community initiatives. These neighbourhoods are often denied or overlooked in terms of funding from national, regional and local authorities as well as the private sector.

Citizenship

Citizenship for young people can be broadly defined as the capability of thoughtful and responsible participation in political, economic, social and cultural life. Young people learn about citizenship in a number of interconnected ways: firstly by introduction to the concepts and values underpinning

citizenship in a democracy; secondly by being active citizens; and lastly by being active and responsible members of their community.

Relaying the message of citizenship to young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods requires a greater emphasis on inclusion and the overall feeling of value and self-worth a nation should afford its young citizens. Through the expansion of greater social rights and broadening the means for youth participation on cultural, economic and social levels, young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods will have the ability to develop a new capacity to reflect on their social realities and act in a manner that benefits their communities and neighbourhoods in seeking change through active citizenship and greater participation.

Mobile Youth Work

Mobile youth work offers an opportunity to reach young people directly that should be applied more often in different contexts, in its forms such as street work, individual aid, group work and community work. The balance of youth work should undergo a shift in its approach towards “go to them” instead of “come to us”; visiting “them” at home, at play, at recreation, instead of coming to “us” (youth centre, community centre or the office). An example of good practice can be found in Germany where youth workers are deployed with this principle in mind.

While this Recommendation takes into account the needs of young people living in disadvantaged neighbourhoods in both urban settings and rural areas, the stress was however put on the situation of young people in urban settings.

Co-management

Model of partnership between public authorities (governmental representatives in charge of youth) and civil society (non-governmental youth organisations and networks), developed by the Council of Europe at the end of the sixties, which involves a process of consultation, co-decision and co-

management between both partners concerning the policy and programmes of the Council of Europe in the field of youth (and the use of the financing available for this programme).

Youth workers

Persons involved in work or actions with or for young people, either on a voluntary basis or professionally. This work or actions can be implemented in the framework of a youth organisation, a youth service, a youth centre, a youth workers' training centre or any other structure operating in the area of non-formal education of young people.

