

Enter! Youth Meeting 2015

Access to social rights for *all* young people

30 June – 3 July 2015, European Youth Centre Strasbourg

Report
Ingrid Ramberg

Enter! Youth Meeting 2015

Meeting report by Ingrid Ramberg

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Executive summary

The Enter! Youth Meeting 2015, Access to Social Rights for *All* Young People, took place from 30 June to 3 July 2015 at the European Youth Centre Strasbourg.

The Meeting brought together 180 participants: young people (aged from 13 upwards), youth workers and local and regional authority representatives to exchange experiences and develop ways to promote the access of young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods to social rights.

The framework of the Meeting was the Enter! Project, initiated in 2009 by the Council of Europe's Youth Department and aiming to support youth policy and youth work responses to exclusion, discrimination and violence affecting young people. The project was set at the initiative of the European Steering Committee on Youth and the Advisory Council on Youth, the governmental and non-governmental partners of the youth sector of the Council of Europe, as a response to matters of social cohesion and inclusion of young people. The main concerns behind the project were the multi-dimensional social and economic imbalances associated with young people living in disadvantaged neighbourhoods, which puts them at a disadvantage in accessing social and human rights.

The whole of the Enter! Project, and of the Youth Meeting, rested firmly on a human rights platform – embracing every individual as someone contributing to society and entitled to being recognised as such and treated with dignity.

An early initiative of the Enter! Project was the formulation and processing of a Recommendation for the Committee of Ministers to the member states on the access of young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods to social rights. Initiated by young people themselves, this idea found support and the Recommendation CM/Rec(2015)3 was finally adopted on 21 January 2015.

It was therefore central to the Meeting's programme to discuss the Recommendation and its links with the different realities of social rights, as reflected by the participants. Departing from this exchange, the Meeting concentrated on the needs and possibilities for the implementation of the Recommendation. These discussions focused both on youth work dimensions and youth policy dimensions, as well as on the support that participants would like to see from the Council of Europe.

The Meeting built on the active involvement of young people themselves, relying on the experience, competence and commitment of those who are actually affected by the situation addressed and of those who work actively in the youth field.

As a last point on the agenda, the Meeting also provided input to the work of the Council of Europe in the field of youth. This was done through a Message for the Council of Europe and other stakeholders inviting them to support the work on access to social rights.

Introduction

By Ingrid Ramberg, General Rapporteur

Social rights are for all! But not all young people have the chance to exercise their rights. Many do not even know that they have rights. Or they may know, but without knowing how to actually claim them. So, how can you argue for your rights? How do you gather the knowledge, the courage? And how do you get listened to and respected? The most important answers to these questions lie in becoming more knowledgeable and in finding ways of thinking and acting together with others. This focus on young people, their rights and role in society, as well as on the potential of youth work, lie at the heart of the Youth department of the Council of Europe.

This report concerns the social rights of young people and the fact that social and economic injustices make it very difficult for many young people to access their fundamental social rights. No house, no job, no hope ... is a situation well known to far too many young people. It should be the reality of none – and it need not be!

It may sound like a cliché, but nevertheless: Young people are the future. They will inherit whatever the generations before them have achieved – and neglected. Exclusion, discrimination and violence create suffering. They also takes energy away from pressing issues that today's young generation know only too well that they have to deal with: social cohesion and inclusion, as well as ecological and economic balance and sustainability: there is a lot at stake, and no margins for failure.

Youth work and youth policy need to go hand in hand. The Enter! Project, which started in 2009, builds on the active involvement of young people, youth workers and youth organisations. The methodology of the entire project aims at finding alternative ways of thinking and practising youth work, as well as of strengthening youth policies. In this, the Project draws on the experience of the Council of Europe Youth Department in developing non-formal learning and training of youth workers in order to explore ways of responding to challenges faced by young people and youth work institutions.

The Enter! Youth Meeting was a manifestation of this way of thinking. The meeting brought together 180 participants, the youngest only 13 years of age, and all of them sharing the same focus on recognition and social rights for all young people.

The focus of this report is the Meeting, its discussions and its outcome. The Enter! Youth Meeting has its background in the Enter! Project. The Meeting can also be described as the starting point for a second phase of the process – the active and persistent promotion of social rights for all young people. One important dimension of this process is to make the Recommendation known, and to find ways to use it as an effective tool to make social rights a reality for all young people. Nevertheless, there are linguistic barriers for those who want to work with the document, and those who need to familiarise themselves with its content. A more reader-friendly version of the Recommendation, together with an online presentation, will be made available shortly. Translations into other languages too are encouraged.

Conditions are very different across Europe. People and organisations are also different – in interests, experience, age, needs and so on. All these call for different approaches in the ways the Enter! theme is tackled. There are many possible ways to

open the door to interaction and engagement: football, literacy classes, cooking, and citizenship education, to name a few. This diversity is extremely important, in everyday life as well as in the context of the Enter! Youth Meeting.

Processes started by young people during the Meeting will continue to bring more visibility to youth issues within the Council of Europe. Furthermore, they will demand the active commitment of other sectors and stakeholders, locally, nationally and internationally. This engagement of young people and youth organisations from across Europe is a valuable resource that should be respected and responded to, particularly since the Council of Europe has declared social rights for young people a priority area.

We didn't know before that we could connect to social rights in our activities. Now we are planning a project, a course on access to social rights. We came here to learn more, get some energy – and have fun!

Natasha Williams, 17, and Fionn Greig, youth worker, both from Voice of Youth, Hackney, London, UK

Coming here has filled the three letters HRE, short for Human Rights Education, with meaning. Thanks to the Enter! Project we have understood more what human and social rights mean – and we know more about how to promote them. Very concretely, we are translating the Enter Dignityland! game into Ukrainian and we want to establish more youth clubs. This way we hope to become catalysts for social change in our country.

Igor Nosach, Partnership 4 Every Child charity, Kiev, the Ukraine

We work in a disadvantaged neighbourhood so this meeting is very relevant to us. It helps us to move from paper to reality in our everyday work.

Lavinia Ruscigni, AMSED, Strasbourg, France

Enter! Background to the Project and the Youth Meeting 2015

In 2009, the Council of Europe's youth sector initiated the Enter! Project with the aim of supporting youth policy and youth work responses to exclusion, discrimination and violence affecting young people, particularly in multicultural disadvantaged neighbourhoods. The Enter! Project draws on the experience of the Council of Europe youth sector in developing non-formal learning and training of youth workers in order to explore ways of responding to challenges faced by young people and youth work institutions.

The Enter! Project promotes access to social rights for young people, in particular for those exposed to social exclusion, discrimination and violence, through a variety of local, national and European interventions involving policy makers, youth work actors and young people. The objectives of the Enter! Project are as follows:

- to address situations of social exclusion, discrimination and violence affecting young people through non-formal education and youth work projects
- to develop the competences of youth workers to initiate, support and evaluate projects for and with young people as a tool for youth empowerment and youth participation for access to social rights

- to develop conceptual, educational and practical means for translating access to social rights for young people into the realities of youth work and policy making
- to advocate for the access of young people to social rights, particularly by developing partnerships between civil society actors, young people and policy makers, at local, national and European levels
- to advocate for policy responses that promote access to social rights for young people, particularly by supporting the implementation of the CM/Rec(2015)3 Committee of Ministers' Recommendation to the member states on the access of young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods to social rights.

One core element of the Enter! Project is putting young people and youth-led initiatives at the heart of solutions for improving their access to social rights. For example, through the Enter! long-term training course for youth workers / leaders, a number of local youth projects were developed and young people who have difficulties in exercising their social rights learnt more about their rights, or developed skills to claim them. These local projects were based on active participation of young people, intercultural learning and human rights education, and also addressed specific challenges to social rights. A first Enter! Youth Meeting was organised in 2011 and one of the expectations voiced was for the Council of Europe to give higher visibility and recognition to young people and their initiatives for social rights. Furthermore, with the policy recommendation now adopted, the role of youth work and youth policy needs to be further and effectively promoted. The role of public bodies, and particularly local and regional authorities, remains key for the implementation of policies on access to social rights.

Within this framework of the project as a whole, the aim of the Enter! Youth Meeting 2015 was to bring together young people active in youth work projects to discuss ways to make the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers' Recommendation on Access of Young people from Disadvantaged Neighbourhoods to Social Rights a reality for young people across Europe.

The objectives of the meeting were:

- to provide young people with the opportunity to have their voice heard and to be associated with the work of the Council of Europe
- to learn about young people's experiences of access to social rights
- to share youth work and youth policy practices and responses to situations of exclusion, discrimination and violence affecting young people
- to elaborate further on the needs and possibilities for the implementation of the Committee of Ministers' Recommendation to the member states on the access of young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods to social rights
- to collect proposals for future orientations of the Council of Europe's work in the area of young people's access to rights, autonomy and social inclusion.

Thanks to the Enter project I learned to ask questions and look for answers. It is fine with activities, but without the right values behind them it is not sure that they will make a change for the better. I am no longer lost in the ocean – I learned how to swim. I can

handle mistakes, I have learned sharing and solidarity which is very important if you get tired or lose your motivation. You give and you take! So I look forward to sharing again some excitement. Another world is possible!

Merve Çevik Seda, Turkey, participant in the Enter! long-term training course (LTTC). Her organisation, the Community Volunteers Foundation, works with capacity building around human rights training in Turkey.

Robin Hood is our metaphor for social justice. We work in a deprived area of Nottingham and our aim is to give good examples to young people. We are still in college but we believe we can do a lot. Having families that care is of great help to us. We travelled by train to Strasbourg to make it affordable for the whole group.

Ami Ancliffe, Kara Powell, Evie Scott and Star Wattam together with group leader Jean Case, Bulwell Riverside Centre, Nottingham, United Kingdom

The programme of the Meeting

The programme of the meeting developed over three and a half days, during which a variety of sessions was organised on the basis of non-formal education and intercultural learning approaches.

Day 1 allowed for participants to learn more about each other and also more about social rights, using one of the tools developed within the Enter! Project, the educational game *Enter Dignityland!* It also provided participants with the opportunity to define the context within which the Council of Europe works on young people's access to social rights, with the support of the input by Snežana Samardžić-Marković, Director General of Democracy, Council of Europe.

Day 2 focused on the situation in participants' contexts in relation to social rights and introduced the Committee of Ministers' Recommendation, presented by Rui Gomes. Participants discussed both the main issues young people face, as well as good practices developed to respond to these situations. During the afternoon, participants visited local initiatives from Strasbourg where work is done on social rights issues.

Day 3 included the development of proposals for actions by participants and by the Council of Europe in order to support the implementation of the Recommendation at local level. This was also the day when participants shared their own practices in workshops and collected contributions for the Message of the Meeting.

Day 4 was a moment to share the proposals, discuss them and finalise the Message of the Meeting. And to say goodbye, for now!

Participants' expectations

During the first morning session, participants exchanged and voiced some of their expectations. They had come to the Enter! Youth Meeting, in their words, to,

- share experiences and learn from others

- improve ourselves and share our projects
- find new friends
- build relationships with other organisations (networking)
- find new projects / solutions
- build experience on how to implement national projects
- learn about youth policy in other countries
- learn how to act together
- become more aware about rights
- learn more about social rights and to understand them
- promote access to social rights for young people
- learn more about how to deal with corruption and unemployment issues
- learn more about ethics and social rights in community-based organisations
- learn how to work with young people (in interesting ways:))))
- find out how to use the Recommendation in our reality
- learn about how to be heard on the national level after the meeting
- find out how to make changes
- have FUNNNNNNNNNN!

We look forward to new experiences, to find out how people from other cultures think. To us this is also an opportunity to practise and learn more English.

Liliana Costa, Carlos Felix and Mariana Santos, APSDC, Portugal

I think it is very good that this meeting is so much led by young people themselves – that young people are not marginalised. I am also curious to see what comes out of the mix of NGOs and politicians. I look forward to sharing experiences. I want to meet active young people with fresh ideas that can be beneficial for my work. Of course I will share all information I get with my network, in Bulgaria and elsewhere. The work I am involved in is for all disabled youth and two of the points I think are the most important are inclusive education and the closing of institutions.

Dilyana Deneva, ENIL, Bulgaria

I came to learn more about human rights. To me this is an education opportunity. I also hope to make many new contacts.

Gastan Ranaivoson, JeunesClubSo, France

We want to fight stereotypes, we want to discuss racism and exclusion. We work in the Caucasus region where there are a lot of conflicts, so for us this is very much needed. We need education about culture for instance.

Natalia Skorik and Alexandra Popova, Falcongroun – Scientific Advisory Centre ‘Consciousness’, Russian Federation

A note on this report

The report includes the main sessions of the programme and the discussions that took place during the Meeting.

The report also includes quotes and thoughts by the participants in the meeting, either presented during the Meeting plenaries in the space provided for presenting personal or

organisations experiences on social rights or during interviews with the Meeting rapporteur.

The report opens with the participants' Message of the Meeting, which summarises the key messages of the meeting and perspectives for the future.

Message to the Council of Europe

by the participants at the Enter! Youth Meeting 2015

We, the 180 participants of the Enter! Youth Meeting, coming from the entire continent, want to express our appreciation for the possibility given to us to create and live together at home in the European Youth Centre of the Council of Europe. We are committed to human rights and citizenship for all and want to play our part as actors for change.

We shared our experiences and views about the realities we face regarding social rights, especially the discrimination in accessing them. All young people in Europe today should grow up and live under the protection of the Council of Europe's human rights system. Yet, we are concerned about the living conditions and prospects for many of us whose human rights are too often threatened or denied.

The economic and social crises, aggravated by austerity policies and systemic violence, impact deeply on the living conditions for many young people and families. Access to work is a pre-condition for other rights to be effective and for our autonomy. Too many young people are pessimistic about their future. We need to be able to dream and believe in dreams coming true!

We are outraged with the cuts in public services, especially the health and social sectors. We are alarmed by growing disparities in accessing quality education. Quality education is a right, not a privilege!

We are frustrated by the increasing presence of discrimination and the re-emergence of racism, sometimes exemplified by governments themselves. We support the No Hate Speech Movement campaign, which needs to be taken more seriously by our authorities. We claim equal dignity for everyone, everywhere!

We are appalled by armed conflicts on the continent and their impact on the lives of millions of young people and their families.

We are worried by the lack of solidarity in Europe. We are especially upset by the fate of millions of migrants at the heart and on the shores of Europe. Building walls cannot be the solution!

Young people are a key resource to any society and should be valued accordingly.

We welcome the adoption by the Committee of Ministers of the Recommendation on the access of young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods to social rights¹. We hope that it reaches its full potential and serves its purpose: to prevent and eradicate poverty, discrimination, violence and exclusion faced by young people. It now needs to be taken seriously by the authorities in our countries. It is imperative that all the measures proposed in the Recommendation are given equal attention. We hope that the

programme “Building Inclusive Societies” which the Council of Europe will develop in the next years will also contribute to its implementation.

As active young people, as multipliers in youth organisations and projects, as members of local authorities, we are committed to making a positive change in our communities. We need the Council of Europe to help us on this mission by:

1. Recognising the important role of youth work and youth workers in supporting people in their transition to autonomy and exercising their rights. More possibilities for training of youth workers need to be created. The Enter! long-term training course should continue as a model to be replicated. Valuing youth workers as professionals is an important step towards improving the impact of their work.
2. Investing in youth centres, and similar agencies working with young people, for their potential to promote the values of non-formal education. Young people also need places to be together and grow their own initiatives.
3. Valuing sports, culture and leisure-time activities as platforms for self-development. In the process of transition to autonomy, interaction among young people is a way to promote social inclusion and prevent destructive processes leading to racism and extremism.
4. Furthering the recognition of non-formal education and youth work. Closer links between non-formal and formal education should also be encouraged. Non-formal education has the potential to contribute to curricula in promoting human rights and citizenship education. The youth-friendly and reality-based methodologies of non-formal education are an asset for quality education.
5. Putting pressure on governments to dedicate financial resources to youth work and the promotion of social rights for all. Youth work cannot rely on unpaid volunteers alone.
6. Following on the statementⁱⁱ of the Human Rights Commissioner regarding the negative impact of austerity measures on children and young people.

In our meeting we have developed strategies to support the implementation of the recommendation in our communities. We need the Council of Europe to support our actions by:

7. Involving local, regional and national authorities to implement youth policies and other measures for transforming the realities of young people in ways that correspond with the content of the Recommendation. The needs of young people ought to be the starting point and to be put at the centre of all actions.
 8. Regularly reviewing the implementation of the Recommendation and sharing of best practices across member states. The future Enter! Youth Meetings should contribute to this. We should be part of this process, too.
 9. Encouraging the dissemination of the Recommendation through support of its translation into all the official languages of the member states and promoting youth friendly versions.
 10. Securing that grants for youth-led projects are made easier to apply for by young people. These grants are even more important during times of economic crises.
- 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! Human rights and social inclusion are achievable!

Enter! Youth Meeting. Making social rights a reality for all young people

Snežana Samardžić-Marković, Director General of Democracy, Council of Europe

“I hope you will feel at home here and that a bit of Europe will stay in your hearts when you go back home. Your presence at this Centre today is of great significance for the Council of Europe and I am confident that it is the same for all of you.” After some initial words of welcome, Snežana Samardžić-Marković introduced the history of the Enter! Project and the idea of the Enter Youth Meeting.

The Enter! Youth Meeting is a very special event for the Council of Europe, and by no means “business as usual”. Yes, we are used to meeting youth leaders and multipliers from many parts of Europe on a regular basis in our European Youth Centres in Strasbourg and Budapest. What is out of the ordinary this time is bringing together young people involved directly in *local* youth projects.

We invited you to this meeting because we have important things to do together: to make access to social rights a reality for more young people in Europe, especially those coming from, or living in, disadvantaged neighbourhoods.

Human rights are part of our common heritage. Social rights are at the heart of human rights, especially for people living in precarious situations or coming from vulnerable groups. Vulnerability, precariousness, social exclusion and discrimination hit many communities, families, young people and children very hard, all across Europe. This has become so common that sometimes we lose faith in human rights themselves. Let me quote the Human Rights Commissioner of the Council of Europe, who pointed out recently that young people were one of groups hit the hardest by the economic crisis in Europe:

Youth unemployment is the most common pathology of many countries implementing austerity measures. In addition to social and economic rights, young people’s rights to equal treatment and participation have been undermined. Many young people are losing hope in the future of their countries, their faith in the political elite, and their belief in Europe.

This is a very serious issue. We all wish it not to be true, but it is real. Inequality and discrimination have unfortunately become part of Europe’s daily reality, “business as usual”, leading to human rights violations that impact upon millions of people and put at risk the credibility, the fabric and the future of our societies and of democracy. We must neither give up nor resign. We must act and learn to take action.

The Human Rights Commissioner noted also that there is a need to “empower young people to assert their rights”, to strengthen their awareness of human rights and to create opportunities for effective participation in social, economic, cultural and political life.

This is precisely what we want to continue doing with you. We need you to do it “better” and to do it “together”. Young people are often more vulnerable and have more questions regarding their autonomy, their future and their place in society. The youth policy of the Council of Europe aims at providing young people with equal opportunities

experience which enable them to develop knowledge, skills and competencies to play a full part in all aspects of society.

We emphasise equal opportunities because young people do not all have similar opportunities. We emphasise youth participation because it is a condition for inclusion, for democracy and for autonomy. It is not just about doing things for young people, but *with* young people.

The Enter! Project illustrates this approach very well. It is an excellent example of young people contributing to the mission of the Council of Europe as active citizens, with a direct input through the activities of the Project – in particular the first Enter! Youth Meeting which took place four years ago. The Project was initiated in 2009 to affirm the commitment of the Council of Europe, local authorities and youth workers in supporting equal dignity for all young people, regardless of their background, living environments and economic status. The experiences brought by youth work projects formed the basis for Recommendation CM/Rec(2015)3 to member states on the access of young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods to social rights, which was adopted by the Committee of Ministers in January.

What this Enter! Recommendation states and recommends to member states is particularly relevant and topical. Let me give you three examples:

- The first refers to *access* to quality education, secure employment, decent living conditions, adequate transport, health care, technology and opportunities for social, cultural and economic participation as a *prerequisite for the inclusion and active citizenship of all young people*.
- The second relates to the recognition of the willingness of young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods to contribute to the improvement of their own situations and those of their communities. It recognises the positive role they and their organisations can play for *social cohesion*.
- The third is linked to the recommendation to governments to implement sustainable, evidence-based public policies that take into consideration the specific situations and needs of young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods. These policies should *aim at preventing and eradicating poverty, discrimination, violence and exclusion faced by young people*.

The Recommendation enables youth organisations, youth workers, human rights and community organisations to demand and to expect better actions by governments and local and regional authorities for the human rights of ALL young people. But we all know that texts are not sufficient by themselves: they need to be followed by actions.

Your mission in this second Enter! Youth Meeting is to help us in making the Recommendation become a real and effective instrument to support access to rights by young people. The programme of your meeting is organised to collect your experiences and your proposals on the basis of which we will take the Recommendation to policy makers at national and local levels.

We would also like to invite you to think of what else we – all together – can and should do to complement the Recommendation. The Message of this meeting will be important for this purpose. I am looking forward to reading your conclusions and recommendations and I will make sure that these reach all the relevant sectors of the Council of Europe. Speak the language of youth and the language of human rights. It will be understood!

The work of the Council of Europe and of the Directorate General of Democracy in this domain will not be limited to this Recommendation. We are contributing through our Education and Youth sectors to the thematic Council of Europe “Action Plan on The Fight Against Violent Extremism and Radicalism Leading to Terrorism”, the “Action Plan on Roma” as well as to the future “Action Plan on Building Inclusive Societies”. We are also planning to focus on migration and its impact on young people, and on segregation, especially in school environments. Combating segregation is essential to stop the spirals of discrimination and exclusion. We all know that power corrupts. But we often forget that powerlessness, the lack of power, corrupts too. And sometimes corrupts deeper.

I would like to conclude by thanking the governmental and non-governmental members of the Joint Council on Youth for their continuous support and commitment. It is another piece of evidence of the vitality of co-management and of the effectiveness of genuine youth participation. I wish also to thank the Congress of Local and Regional authorities for their co-operation and involvement as well as the local authorities here represented. Slowly but surely, co-operation bears fruits: this Youth Centre, as a meeting place, is a starting point for co-operation for common good.

I hope you will also enjoy the meeting as an experience in empowerment and as an intercultural learning experience in living together and creating together. This Centre has witnessed several generations of young people. It is also clearly marked by two major campaigns: the No Hate Speech Movement campaign, which has now been prolonged until 2017 and is open to your participation, as well as another campaign, which relates to our permanent commitment to human rights and to young people: All Different, but also All truly Equal, in dignity and in rights.

Social rights are human rights – *Enter Dignityland!*

The underlying concept on which the entire project and programme was built was the notion of social rights, which are human rights. *Human rights* are the rights we have just because we are humans. Freedom, for example, is a right that every human is entitled to from birth. As it says in the UN Declaration of Human Rights: “All humans are born free and equal in dignity and rights ...!” *Social rights* are part of human rights and can be found in international treaties signed by our governments, such as the European Social Charter. They include housing, health, education, employment, social protection, the movement of people, non-discrimination, and so on. For these rights to be realised in our lives, active action from governments is needed. It takes laws, procedures, information, education, and much more.

Regarding *access* to social rights, this means being able to enjoy fully a specific right. This includes the fact that the right is clearly defined in legislation and procedures, the fact that there are remedies in case the rights are violated, and that people, especially those at risk, feel empowered and knowledgeable when claiming that right. In short, when we access our rights is when we can say that “this is now mine – I now have this right, it is for real and not just on paper”.

At the level of implementation, social rights demand efforts from governments, meaning not only the fact that governments respect people’s rights, but also that governments provide resources for the realisation of rights. What this implies is that social rights matters are also matters of policy prioritisation. From this point onwards, the Meeting participants had the chance to experiment a policy development process, through the game *Enter Dignityland!*

***Enter Dignityland!* – a way to explore social rights**

Social policies concerning social rights do not fall from the sky! They are debated and decided upon by elected politicians on different levels. If you were part of the process, or if you would like to influence it – how would you prioritise and argue for your view?

In the *Enter Dignityland!* card game on social rights, players act as Members of Parliament in an imaginary country called Dignityland. By playing, they learn more about social rights and their links to social policies. The game was introduced to the Youth Meeting in a very practical and hands-on manner. A special session in the programme was devoted to trying it out, through playing it. After having finished the game, participants shared their reflections and questions. Examples from a multitude of comments show that playing the *Enter Dignityland!* game had allowed them to do the following:

see things

- have a clearer perspective on the diverse and detailed content of the social rights

- reflect upon a social situation from different perspectives, looking at both values and the resources available. “Social rights are important but expensive.”
- find out about social rights that they did not know about before.

argue

- be convinced by other person’s arguments. “The game was a kind of processing.”
- “When we need to argue for or against something, time will always be limited – it is not just an effect of the game. In order to be heard we should aim at being short and clear in our arguments. Time limits are part of our reality.”
- “It is easy to speak in a group where we all share the same interest. But in a real parliament setting there will be issues of power and of re-election.”

choose

- “All rights should have some importance! In our group we reacted very emotionally. We had long discussions. How do you balance between health care and education? Or work? It is very difficult. We found consensus on education. We need to have a shared base. That was why we valued education so much.”
- “Should we stick strictly to the focus on youth? What happens if we do or don’t?”
- “It’s important to be careful with the words ‘right’ and ‘wrong’! You should not step back from your convictions. Or, one could say, it’s not a matter of being right or wrong. It’s a matter of perspectives. There will always be competing values.”

decide

- “We need to go from theory to practice. It is very likely that there will be different priorities in different countries. Social rights are perceived differently in different countries.”
- “It is nice to be able to exchange and share opinions. But when we get home we need to base our discussions on precise data. We need more information to make the right decisions.”
- “We tried different methodologies for decision making. We discussed, voted, we tried to reach consensus. Money and values we found to be the most important aspects. Choosing X means not choosing Y.”

Enter Dignityland! is based on an original game about social rights, created by the Community Volunteers Foundation in Turkey, Toplum Gönüllüleri Vakfı (TOG) and Istanbul Bilgi University NGO Training and Research Unit from Turkey, called “Life is hard” (“Hayat Zor!”), and it has been adapted with their contributions and permission.

Participants were invited to take copies of the game with them. They were also encouraged to think about the possibility of translating the game into other languages. Ukrainian and Portuguese versions are already on their way. More information about both the game itself and translation issues can be found at www.coe.int/enter.

This Recommendation – what is it, really? An introduction

Rui Gomes, Head of the Educational and Training Division, Youth Department, Council of Europe:

Very concretely, the Recommendation is a written document of twelve pages, 3,000 words. Quite a lot! But the different parts are there for different reasons and they have different meanings.

The Recommendation was adopted by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on 21 January 2015 and it addresses all 47 member states of the Council of Europe. Rui Gomes took the group for a guided tour through the Recommendation, focusing on three things:

- the history: the Council of Europe and how the text came into being
- the meaning of the text itself
- the potential of the text, namely the use that participants can make of it.

The history

The Council of Europe (which is basically a council of states) meet and sit together. Not all of them of course, but special representatives. This way the Council can decide on different kinds of documents, all with different status and weight.

There are *conventions*. These are treaties and they oblige members to follow what is in the document.

Then there are policy areas within which there is no consensus, but where there is still a need to step forward in some way. Here we find, instead of conventions, *recommendations*. These are made up of precisely this – recommendations to member states.

Central in this process is that ambassadors to the foreign ministers sit together and discuss. Then the ambassadors go home to check if the text (the draft) conforms to national laws. After that, they come back to formulate a final version. Or – of course – there maybe comments that other states need to take another look at, and there maybe comments on comments, and so on.

The Enter! Recommendation is very special in that it was initiated in a training programme of the Youth Department – the Enter! Programme, as you know. Only its final stage was prepared together with youth organisations, national representatives and experts.

This explains the long time it took to get the Recommendation through. There were reactions such as, “We were not consulted...”, or “We don’t understand ...”. Or there were reactions on the language: “It says ‘must’, where it should be ‘should’, or: “It says ‘do’; we want it to say ‘perhaps do’ ...”. And then there were the comments on the comments, on the comments... . Even though all this may seem unnecessarily complicated it is very important that everybody, every member state, feels that this is a Recommendation that we are part of and want to work with. Eventually, as we all know by now, the Recommendation was agreed upon and adopted.

The meaning of the text

Let us start by taking a close look at the title: what is the Recommendation about and whom does it address?

- It is a “*Recommendation*” to the member states
- Then follows “*Enter*” – why this word? “*Enter*” is like walking in through a door, through the front door. In this title, “*Enter*” is used as a symbol. It stands for inclusion, access and working across borders.
- “*Youth*”? Depending on the different legal frameworks, youth can refer to different age groups, but generally those between 15 and 30.
- “*Disadvantaged neighbourhoods*”? This has been debated a lot! Does it put a negative tag on certain neighbourhoods, communities or individuals? Sometimes it does, that is true, but in this context it refers to places where people in fact experience disadvantage. We need to focus on the equal outcome, which means that some areas may need special focus. It is a fact that it is more difficult for young people in certain areas to access and exercise their social rights. This, however, must not lead to or be confused with stigmatisation. (The Recommendation in fact has a Glossary as its last section where, among others things, the concept of ‘disadvantaged neighbourhoods’ is explained.)
- “*Social rights*”? Apart from what Mara Georgescu already explained, social rights are what ensure decent living conditions – the opposite of poverty, discrimination, violence and exclusion.

After the title follow three sections:

- *The background* (2 pages), which refers back to everything that has been agreed upon before: resolutions and recommendations. This section is also full of typical words: *recalling, having regard to, bearing in mind, underlining*, and several others. Either you just leave this section aside, or you use it to look for other documents which may support your arguments.
- Next follows (less than 1 page) *the four central points of the Recommendation*. The first point starts: “Recommends that the governments of the member states develop and implement sustainable, evidence-based public policies that take into consideration the specific situations and needs of young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods”. After this come the concrete dimensions that address living conditions and the importance of integration and active participation as well as the role of non-formal education, youth work and gender-sensitive approaches. The second point underlines the importance of the measures proposed in the appendix when formulating and implementing policies and programmes. The third point underlines the importance that the Recommendation is translated and disseminated as widely as possible. Finally, the fourth and last point urges that the Recommendation be brought to the attention of states also outside of the Council of Europe.
- Finally comes *the Appendix* (by far the longest section: 9.5 pages) with its “suggested measures on access to social rights for young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods”, and last of all a Glossary. All of this is an integrated part of the Recommendation; it is part of the legal document / text.

The potential of the text

A Recommendation concerns matters for which the committee has agreed on “a common policy”. It is not binding, however. Member states may ignore it, implement it, or partly implement it. Furthermore, there is also no obligation to report back on what has, or has not, been done.

It is therefore in our hands to remind member states of the existence of this Recommendation and its contents. As representatives for civil society, for NGOs we can address any institution or public authority saying that we would like to know what is being done. So, basically, the adoption of the Recommendation is not the end, it is the end of the beginning only. This is the way it works: If we want attention and change – *we have to work!*

The following list could be a source of inspiration as well as a reminder of things that it is possible to do and/or important to remember in order to be effective and successful:

- Promote
- Adapt
- Develop
- Ensure
- Facilitate
- Create
- Study
- Recognise
- Invest
- Include
- Encourage
- Propose
- Provide
- Simplify
- Pay attention to

Linking the Recommendation and participants' work and realities

After the introduction to the Recommendation, participants worked together in groups of 14-18 people. They started by sharing basic information about themselves. The groups then continued with the theme of this particular session: to discuss the links between the content of the Recommendation, youth work and youth policy for social rights.

Focusing on the role of youth work and youth policy meant that the exchange included both needs (in the local or national situation) and activities (the participants' experience from being, for example, youth leaders, members of youth clubs, politicians, etc.). Everything that was brought up during this first working group session was later used in the discussion on different ways to promote the implementation of the Recommendation.

Since this session was also the first occasion for many of the participants to actually work with the Recommendation, the introduction given by Rui Gomes was important for everybody to grasp both the idea of the document, and the way it is built up as a text. Since the Recommendation covers such a lot, the groups were encouraged to make a selection among the different measures mentioned. To start with, they were presented with the following key areas, all mentioned in the Appendix to the Recommendation.

1. Education and training
2. Employment and occupation
3. Housing
4. Health
5. Information and counselling
6. Sport, leisure and culture
7. Breaking down segregation and promoting social inclusion
8. Promoting meaningful participation
9. Ensuring access to rights without discrimination
10. Support for youth work, non-formal education and youth organisations
11. Improving gender equality
12. Prevention of violence

Of course all of these areas are important! None of them can be taken out. How then should the groups think when choosing which ones to concentrate upon? The groups were invited to choose a limited number of areas: "Where can you contribute your ideas and do something to bring about change?" This question was then divided in two sub-questions:

- What can *youth work* do to improve the situation on the specific theme?
- What should *policies* do?

Among the many suggestions for activities and action from the working groups, it is not always clear which ones are within the range of action of youth work: the economic situation of youth organisations, their degree of independence, and their relation to authorities, and so on. Conditions may vary a lot between countries, and in other ways. Therefore, some suggestions may be relevant to both youth work and youth policy.

There are the activities that youth organisations can carry out *independently*, where they have the means themselves: members, premises, money. There are also many fields where they can carry out activities *in collaboration* with other stakeholders; schools, for example. On top of all this there is also the expertise that young people and youth organisations have from their own lived experience – but without having the power or mandate to act for improvement or change. This is where youth policy comes in – and the need to *lobby for change* at the structural level. Here is just one example of a suggestion that could be dealt with in different ways: “Evening courses for young people who have finished school”. This could be interpreted as meaning to “arrange”, “initiate”, “promote” or “lobby for” – depending on the local / national situation.

The keywords in the list are of course all very complex. The themes are all interrelated, and influence one another. In addition, some can function as a means to achieve others. Some areas may seem more fundamental than others, such “a job and a house” – the key factors that kept reappearing in the Forever Young? seminar, on the transition to an autonomous adult life (Council of Europe, 2014). Apart from the many suggestions on different areas, there were also the more general comments: that youth issues need a cross-cutting strategy; that particular communities may need a complex development plan involving all the thematic areas; that there is a disturbing gap between what is being done and what governments say is being done.

The groups’ reports show clearly that the Enter! Youth Meeting represented a wealth of experience and commitment, in particular within non-formal education and youth work – the areas central to the youth department of the Council of Europe. The topic of education and training (1.) was chosen as the number one priority to be discussed by all groups. After that came employment and occupation (2.). Alongside these two, health (4.), sport, leisure and culture (6.), together with the support for youth work, non-formal education and youth organisations (10.), were discussed most in-depth.

The following overview of keywords summarises what the groups highlighted under the different headlines.

I find that youth issues are too often downplayed. When I was first elected to our local municipality at the age of 19, I was full of expectations. But I encountered lots of problems and barriers. Many times I heard reactions like “your ideas are good, but they cannot be implemented”. So I am very happy to be here in Strasbourg to stand together with you for social rights. Here I find inspiration and motivation. Maybe I can make a difference, not a big change – but a small one. I don’t want to just hope – I want to act. When I heard about the Recommendation I immediately had it translated into Greek. The text is now adopted in my local municipality. I will move forward to propose measures and actions. If I succeeded doing this then you can all do even better.

Maria Roidi, local politician in the municipality of Neapolis-Sikies, Greece

Our organisation works with children between 6 and 12 years of age. We cook with them, vegetarian cooking, and we do other things that are easily accessible, like football and boxing. We are volunteers and we know what it is like to be young and alone in a new country. Helping others is a way to help yourself.

Sergey Yulianov and Stelian Nedkov, Cultureghem Association, Belgium

Education and training

Issues mentioned

Quality education is not available to all (due to, e.g. high costs, low budget places, corruption, the distance between small towns and the main education centres). Education programmes are not relevant and not adapted to labour-market needs and standards. The forms of teaching are out-dated and teachers are not qualified enough. Only a few programmes promote participation in international educational projects.

Measures by NGOs

- Realise and fill the double role to 1. promote non-formal and informal education and to complement the formal education that does not teach about life, and 2. promote the importance of going to school and receiving a professional education.
- Initiate a less traditional way of looking at schooling. It is often too difficult for young people from disadvantaged areas. Education is also mostly theory-based and does not reflect real life or educate how to survive in the “real world”.
- Organise peer support and mentoring.
- Revise and professionalise the role of volunteers.
- Professionalise the training for youth workers.
- Offer lessons organised by youth organisations as part of the regular school curriculum.
- Organise evening courses for young people who have finished school.
- Organise language courses on a volunteer basis (e.g. on the premises of NGOs).
- Provide information about procedures for applying to work abroad (very often young people don't know about these procedures).
- Train representatives of formal education (teachers, advisors, etc.) on social rights.

Measures by public authorities

- Facilitate the participation of NGOs in schools.
- Introduce non-formal education approaches into formal education.
- Recognise the value of working in/for organisations – it is not a waste of time!
- Prolong education by one year and make volunteering part of the programme.
- Develop a university programme for the training of youth workers.
- Provide personalised support to all students before they choose a study path or if they are in a temporary job.
- Support young teachers in going to disadvantaged schools (good pay, housing).
- Adapt school curricula for minorities' needs.
- Adapt conditions so that people with disabilities can have fair opportunities to choose the school / faculty they want to attend.
- Make it possible to choose mother-tongue education: teaching of and in the mother tongue (in Turkey, for example).
- Introduce / give more attention to such learning fields as health education, sexual education, sign language, first aid assistance, and citizenship.
- Create a European pass for culture to allow young people to visit museums, see concerts and attend different cultural activities.
- Give supplementary allowances to facilitate studies abroad.
- Ensure that educational staff are qualified.

- Stop IQ tests to prevent segregation.
- Make documents accessible for everybody to receive education.

Employment and occupation

Issues mentioned

People are tired of undertaking training that does not result in employment. As a result of this, motivation is low. Education is necessary for employment but there is a need to recognise non-formal talents. Young people are given wages so low that they cannot support themselves. There is a lack of employment opportunities that do not require experience. Certain groups of young people are discriminated against, for example, the disabled.

Laws related to employment conditions are often violated.

Measures by NGOs

- Intensify the information about opportunities on the labour market.
- Promote and support volunteering and training.
- Carry out activities on youth entrepreneurship and on how to establish your own private businesses.
- Encourage young people to be active, strive to improve their skills and look for opportunities.
- Initiate workshops / training courses on CV writing, and preparing for a job interview.
- Support unemployed young people through training.
- Organise internships and career fairs (be the connector for young people).

Measures by public authorities

- Develop and implement benefits for young people (for transport, housing, insurance).
- Create more opportunities for internships.
- Give recognition for volunteer experiences for further professional employment opportunity.
- Promote the Youth Pass to make it more effective in ensuring that when a student decides to work abroad for a short period, their work is later recognised by the education system and the labour market.
- Develop special quota systems for employers who employ young people without work experience.
- Develop co-operation with companies to hire young people.
- Open career consultant centres / services within the youth work facilities.
- Put into place tax benefits / a reduction system for hiring specific groups of young people (e.g. minorities).
- Create more concrete links needed between education and occupation.
- Reserve 30% of all new jobs for young people.

Housing

Issues mentioned

There is a lack of affordable housing for young people (not only is it expensive to buy, but rents and utility payments are costly). This leads to dependency on family. It is difficult for young families to obtain credits / loans. There is a lack of transparency and trust in the distribution of available houses.

Measures by NGOs

- Assess the needs of youth, and help in the formulation of the problems.
- Inform young people about their rights and ways of solving the housing problem.
- Organise round table discussions / set up meetings with authorities.
- Encourage young people to voice their needs, and their right to autonomy and an independent life.
- Show solidarity with migrants / refugees.

Measures by public authorities

- Develop programmes for affordable housing for youth and associate the private sector to this process.
- Organise youth building blocks and create youth quarters in the city.
- Regulate the prices for purchasing and rental housing.
- Do not forget the importance of mixing different cultures and backgrounds in urban neighbourhoods.

Health

Measures by NGOs

- Offer education for health rights.
- Monitor “health laws”.
- Help young people with problems of anxiety / depression in gaining access to professional help. Secure that anonymity is guaranteed.
- Promote more sports, for example, as proactive health care.

Measures by public authorities

- Offer free health services (including vaccinations when relevant) to all young people.
- Introduce health education as an integrated part of the school curriculum.
- Implement and disseminate information about health care e-tools (platforms, etc.).
- Promote professional doctors’ volunteering.
- Provide access to European social assistance for everyone, and ensure its recognition in all countries.

Information and counselling

Measures by both NGOs and public authorities

- Use apps and social media to ensure that young people can access information in a quick, short and easy manner.
- Guarantee confidentiality for young people to feel safe to talk.
- Organise an event calendar.
- Give information on scholarships.

Sport, leisure and culture

Measures by NGOs

- Sports and other specific activities are good starting points for exchange and contact.
- Sports and cultural activities provide good ways to fight discrimination.
- Ensure easy access, bringing services to young people rather than expecting them to go to services. Free buses may be needed.
- Allow young people also to choose to relax and not always “consume activities”; they need leisure time too.
- Initiate campaigns to encourage special target groups to be more active. Open up sports more to disabled people or introduce girls to “boys’ sports” and vice versa.

Measures by public authorities

- Provide spaces where young people can take part in different activities.
- Initiate international sports competitions. For many people, international competitions have been the only way to leave their country for the first time. A system of national and international sport competitions should be developed.
- Provide equipment for free so that lack of money does not stop young people from joining the sports they would like to. This would reduce elitism and segregation.
- Distribute cheap or free tickets to promote access to leisure, cultures or sport activities during the summer.

Breaking down segregation and promoting social inclusion

Measures by NGOs

- Support the access of all people from different backgrounds in participating in activities.
- Ensure visibility of the different needs.
- Promote accessibility for people with disabilities.
- Find those who do not engage, and work with them at whatever level they require.

Measures by public authorities

- Co-operate with NGOs, and promote collaboration.

- Be more open to suggestions from organisations working directly with young people since they are a bridge between the government and young people.
- There is a need for all services to work in partnership to wrap services around young person's needs.

Promoting meaningful participation

Issues mentioned

Young people are not always aware about programmes and opportunities. Young people have limited access to and information about the youth policy field and its decision-making processes. There is a lack of concrete support of active young people and their initiatives. This may lead to a loss of interest and reduces the motivation to organise activities.

Measures by NGOs

- Meaningful participation should be prioritised because it can influence other areas. Participation builds engagement and motivation.
- Create and implement projects for all categories of young people.
- Disseminate information about opportunities for participation in programmes and activities of youth NGOs.
- Promote volunteerism.
- Encourage young people to be actively involved, to learn and work, as well as to become engaged in volunteer activities.
- Question if / when local youth councils are needed: do they actually represent the youth community? Are they inclusive? What is the impact of the decisions being taken in such spaces?
- When we work with youth from disadvantaged backgrounds, we need to let them be aware of how and when they are being discriminated against. Only after that can you support them in educating and working with others.

Measures by public authorities

- Open the doors to the municipality to improve young people's understanding of how decisions are taken, and the processes behind the daily life of the local authorities.
- Develop system of organs responsible for youth policy (youth departments, committees, etc.).
- Establish a Children's Parliament (for under 12 year-olds).
- Improve / implement the system of grants and funding for youth initiatives.
- Create programmes for young people based on their real needs.
- Support the creation of youth associations.

Ensuring access to social rights without discrimination

Measures by NGOs

- Start in the local context, with local activities: "We have to touch people directly on the streets where they are."

- Use youth clubs or youth centres as spaces to learn and educate about discrimination. Awareness needs to precede action.
- Empower and support young people to act as youth leaders. Youth exchanges and other mobility opportunities can be very motivational for this.
- Develop links with local and regional authorities for the implementation and follow-up of the recommendations.
- Collaborate with other institutions that (may) influence choices and possibilities of young people. Promote good effects, and counteract bad ones (e.g. experiences from discrimination in school, in career guidance).

Measures by public authorities

- Introduce standard CVs that only contain information regarding education, competences and skills, not data that could lead to discrimination.

Support for youth work, non-formal education and youth organisations

Issues mentioned

There is a lack of financial support for youth organisations from governments and local authorities, as well as interest in their work. There is a lack of recognition of non-formal education. Some countries put up barriers for registration of youth NGOs and make it difficult to receive funds from international organisations. Youth work is not a respected profession. It is paid less and taken off political agendas first, and most easily.

Measures by NGOs

- Carry out and/or promote research on the needs of young people.
- Articulate problems and lobby for their solutions with authorities.
- Promote social activities.
- Provide information to young people about programmes and activities.
- Promote formal recognition for youth workers. Promote a youth worker profession / university programme.

Measures by public authorities

- Make available spaces for active leisure time without costs.
- Organise local consultative bodies / platforms (youth councils), which include representatives of government, non-governmental organisations and young people themselves to discuss youth policy issues.
- Increase funding in this area, with a special budget for youth organisations at local and national levels.
- Improve legislation to remove barriers to the development of NGOs.
- Give legislative recognition to youth workers and non-formal education.

Improving gender equality

Gender equality is a topic for all, not just girls / women.

Measures by NGOs

- Promote the interpretation of sexual education as a wide topic including “relationships” education, involving emotions, feelings, friendship, and so on, and not just “sex”.

- Educate all people on all rights. There is no sense in only educating women on their rights; men also need awareness of these rights.
- Initiate an educational campaign on what gender is. Promote this also among education actors and local authorities to ensure equality.
- Promote the Living Library method as a way to raise awareness and combat gender prejudice.

Measures by public authorities

- There must be equality of opportunities for all without restrictions.
- Equal rights for LGBT.
- Equal rights for maternity and paternity.
- Equal payment.

Prevention of violence

Focus must not be on individuals only. The bigger picture, the structural perspectives are crucial. There must be support to report safely, and protection for those who do report violence.

Exchanging practical know-how on the ground: an afternoon devoted to study visits

Wednesday afternoon was devoted to study visits around Strasbourg, most of them to places where young people meet and where youth work is carried out on a daily basis. However, on the list of sites to choose between was also the City Council of Strasbourg, which is important since it represents an arena where conditions affecting youth work and the situation of young people are decided upon. The visits were a learning opportunity for participants to discover how social rights initiatives are being carried out in practice, but also to discover the remaining challenges.

Below follows a brief description of the many sites – organisations and institutions – that generously invited groups of participants to visit, and to ask questions about their daily work, their motivation, conditions and strategies.

Municipality of Strasbourg

This visit focused on local democracy and citizenship participation, on women's rights and gender equality, on the Youth Council and social inclusion policies. The group was received by Nawel Rafik Elmrini, Deputy Mayor of Strasbourg, who also talked about the European policy of the City of Strasbourg and youth policy.

Social Cultural Centre of Neuhof

The social cultural centre of Neuhof is open to all the inhabitants of the neighbourhood, and it aims to be a place where people can meet and talk about their needs. It proposes social activities, giving particular attention to families and people facing economic, social and cultural problems.

Social and Family Centre Victor Hugo

The Victor Hugo socio-cultural centre proposes a wide range of activities and training for the neighbourhood of Schiltigheim. Its mission is to offer social, cultural and educational services.

La Cimade

La Cimade has the objective of demonstrating an active solidarity with exploited and oppressed people. They defend dignity and the rights of refugees and migrants, no matter their origins, their political views, or their convictions. They fight against all forms of discrimination, especially xenophobia and racism.

L'Étage

L'Étage has been engaged in multiple activities for and with youth experiencing disadvantage. It opened its doors in central Strasbourg in 1981, and in 1984 followed the opening of a restaurant which enabled the Centre to maintain contacts with the population of young homeless adults. Nowadays, they also offer training courses and have opened their facilities to isolated families and people of all ages.

La Maison des adolescents de Strasbourg

“La Maison des Ados” is a place of advice and accompaniment for youth aged between 12 and 21, and families and professionals from the surroundings. Everybody can find answers to their physical, mental, social, educative and legal concerns. Consultations are

free of charge, they do not involve any administrative formalities, and they are confidential and respectful of anonymity.

Migrations Santé Alsace

The mission of Migrations Santé Alsace is to support access to health services for migrants and their families. Activities include professional interpretation for a fair access to health care and social services, educational activities, and information on the health system in the native languages of the migrants for a fair access to disease prevention and training of professionals in the health and social fields to host and accompany migrants.

Association PAR ENchantment

The association supports the inhabitants of the neighbourhood of Koenigshoffen in order to help them in the parental supervision. It organises meetings and projects where both parents and children are invited to take part.

Tôt ou t'Art

Tôt ou t'Art works on social inclusion by engaging social, cultural and medical centres. More than 60 cultural centres are affiliated to its network, as well as 200 social and medical structures. Approximately 20,000 people in need benefit from its services. The organisation runs different meetings and conferences, in order to raise awareness of the link between culture and social fields.

La Station - LGBTI

La Station is a space where everybody, no matter their origins, their social status, their sexual preferences or their gender identity, can build an identity and live together with respect for differences and each other's dignity.

Le Mouvement du Nid

The Mouvement du Nid accompanies prostitutes in the process of their having access to rights, to services and to social security. When the prostitutes are in the process of giving up prostitution, the organisation supports them.

This was much better than what I had expected. When I get back to the others in Nottingham I will read to them from my diary – that's how I use the red book that was given to all participants of the meeting.

Star Wattam, Bulwell Riverside Centre

As a result of the study visit we did yesterday we decided that we want to start a library for children.

The Cultureghem Association team, Belgium

What happens to you when you are young is important!

Antje Rothemund, Head of the Youth Department of the Council of Europe

I know from my own experience how important youth work can be for the participation of young people in society. I used to be a youth worker in the German town of Munich. In the disadvantaged area where I worked, an Enter! project would have been very useful. It would have been very helpful to have an international structure, and to have a shared a larger set of values to refer to in our everyday work. But back in the 1970s, nothing of that existed.

What I want to say to you today is that the youth sector of the Council of Europe is a resource for you! No other international organisation has the same agenda or the same structure. It is in fact the only organisation in the world where youth leaders make decisions side by side with government representatives. Young people are represented through the European Youth Foundation. Things that we do together include capacity building through training and research. We promote co-operation between civil society, youth organisations and governments. And we bring issues to the political level. The European Youth Centres in Budapest and Strasbourg offer training for young people in democracy and human rights issues. These centres are important meeting places for projects such as Enter! The European Youth Foundation also funds, supports and monitors youth projects, both international projects and local pilot projects. This is made possible through money that comes from the member states.

But how exactly do we, in the youth sector, approach an issue such as social exclusion? I think the testimonies that are included in the programme of this meeting give good examples of what training can achieve, both for individuals and for communities.

As young people and youth workers you are all important! Everybody is concerned with issues regarding social rights. But the Youth Department cannot invite everybody to its activities. So we count on you! Examples of good practice need to be multiplied – spread – through each and every participant. I can see from how you raise your hands that for the majority of you this is your first contact with the Council of Europe and with the Enter! Project. I hope it will bring good things to your everyday work, and hopefully you will become good ambassadors for our shared agenda and message: that social rights are for all.

Change will happen only if people work together. We have to push from all sides. For this reason, the Enter! Project includes capacity building and complementary training for youth workers. It means a lot if youth workers can see their role and develop their potential in tackling social exclusion.

In addition to this, the Youth Department is also deeply involved in developing youth policies. This is also an important topic on the agenda for this meeting – to give input to the policy recommendation – how to make it known and implemented at the national and local levels.

For all this to happen we need to create spaces where interaction and exchange can take place. We need to break the isolation that many young people experience. It is not “only us” and you do not need to feel “lonely” – comments that I frequently hear from young people. Through projects such as Enter!, and through activities such as the

Enter! Youth Meeting, the Youth Department wants to facilitate contacts, friendship and networking across all kinds of borders. Staying in touch means that you will have the possibility to link with the work of the Council of Europe and of other national and local organisations. We cannot do your work, or compensate for when governments fail to do their work. But we can support you through facilitating exchange that gives you ideas, energy and inspiration.

The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities has put youth policy high on their agenda. I would like to encourage you all to find out more about your own national and local situation. Which ministry is responsible for youth in your country? Is there a written national youth policy? A country cannot have “no youth policy” – not having one is also a youth policy! Find out more about what is there, and about what is missing. A youth policy needs to be based on rights; it needs to see young people as full-fledged citizens. Since both views and documents vary between member states, there is a lot that you can learn from comparisons. Again, let me encourage you to go home and find out:

- Which ministry is responsible for youth?
- Who is dealing with youth policy at the local level?
- What are the connections to your life and to what you do?

The Youth Department has been given an assignment. Since there is now a Recommendation, our work over the next two years (2016–2017) will be focused on supporting the implementation of this Recommendation. We are expected to deliver! Your input is valuable for us to develop this work. And as for your work: we can offer you institutional support. So don't forget that we are here!

Proposals for the implementation of the Enter! Recommendation

The second working group session took place on Thursday morning, this time in nine different groups. The aim of the session was to define clearer actions that participants themselves can do to contribute to the implementation of the Recommendation and how the Council of Europe can support this implementation. The input by Antje Rothmund supported participants in placing their proposals within the context of the youth policy and youth work of the Council of Europe.

The questions for the groups were:

What can you do at a local level for the implementation of the Recommendation?

What kind of support would you like to see from the Council of Europe?

Since the local perspective was the point of departure, the different delegations first talked amongst themselves. After that, an exchange between delegations followed.

- All groups wanted to translate the Recommendations into national languages.
- All groups wanted to actively disseminate the Recommendation and make it widely known.
- All groups would welcome a youth-friendly version of the Recommendation.
- All groups put great emphasis on communication issues and materials.

Many of the working groups presented their response country by country. This is why countries are mentioned in some, but not all, examples below. It is very clear from the groups' reports that the ideas were many and the engagement substantial. For the sake of space, the list that follows does not include all details and similar ideas are not repeated.

Making the Recommendation known

- Disseminate the Recommendation through youth organisations and networks.
- Organise public consultations (non-government and government sectors) with stakeholders from spheres relevant for youth and social policies.
- Organise round-table discussions and debates, and make these accessible through media.
- Organise community events in public spaces, for example, a "Human rights laundry" – hanging clothes with human rights written on them, for discussion (Armenia).

Making things happen

- Work actively with the Recommendation in our own organisations and projects.
- Contact national authorities to co-operate with a youth council on a strategy of promotion and implementation.
- Set up a national working group to create an action plan on how to use the Recommendation (Georgia).

- Make use of the Recommendation for lobbying and negotiation. It is a juridical text approved by the member states and therefore useful.
- Run training courses on how to manage an association from the financial point of view. This is an important response to the fact that there are fewer associations in disadvantaged neighbourhoods.
- Arrange neighbourhood meetings to discuss local needs about education, living conditions, culture and sports.
- Make use of the Roma Strategy and Action Plan and add it to the Recommendation.
- Create youth-friendly assessment tools to enable ALL young people access services that can support them in attaining their social rights (Ireland).
- Encourage volunteers to monitor the implementation of the Recommendation (Turkey).
- Recognise the work done by volunteers by giving them certificates from youth organisations.

Examples and ideas for projects and activities

- Make sure that activities of the organisation are connected with social rights, for example, in the Kookmet project, where cooking together with children opens a way to talk about human and social rights (Belgium).
- Use the concept 'Every child needs a hero' to build awareness (The Netherlands).
- Organise flash mobs against discrimination, violence and exclusion (Portugal).
- Invite young Roma people to participate in our activities and inform on the possibilities available to them (Albania).
- Organise non-formal education activities about civil rights; for example, make young people aware about Roma (Bulgaria).
- Support theatre groups promoting social rights (Greece).
- Mobilise active support for human rights through a Social Contract campaign, engaging candidates for local elective positions to commit on consulting young people regarding local issues (Albania).
- Pay special attention to the situation of particularly vulnerable groups; for example, organise storytelling with migrants' stories at public events or in schools (Italy); advocate for the social rights of internally displaced people (Ukraine).
- Offer sensitivity training in schools, for example, on the use of gender-inclusive language (France).
- Encourage young people to be themselves and to be innovative and not just enter the job market. Train them and motivate them instead (Malta).
- Develop further the European Voluntary Service through informing potential hosting / sending organisations of partner cities.

Proposals for the Council of Europe

Participants were also asked to reflect on how the Council of Europe can support the implementation of the Recommendation. Participants provided the following proposals:

1. INFORMATION AND DISSEMINATION

- Send a letter to governments informing them officially about the Recommendation and its contents, and provide ideas on how governments can support the implementation of the Recommendation.
- Offer support in the official translation of the Recommendation into the different national languages.
- Provide experts at any national level for discussions related to the Recommendation.
- Disseminate educational activities on social rights, particularly the *Enter Dignityland!* game.

2. POLITICAL SUPPORT ON THE TOPIC OF ACCESS TO SOCIAL RIGHTS

- Make sure that the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities keeps the topic of access to social rights for young people on its agenda.
- Make sure that the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe takes note of the Recommendation in its work on youth.
- Support governments in investing in the quality development of youth work and youth policy.
- Ensure that the topic of de-institutionalisation is tackled within the Council of Europe's agenda on the rights of people with disabilities.

3. TRAINING OF YOUTH WORKERS

- Develop models of training courses on access to social rights at the national level, on the basis of the content of the Recommendation.
- Continue the training of youth workers, and include in it a specific focus on the Recommendation.

4. PROGRESS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATION

- Define a mechanism for checking, every three to four years, on the progress on the implementation of the Recommendation. For example, the Youth Department could organise every three to four years an Enter! Youth Meeting for exchanging practices and for measuring progress from the local to the European level in the implementation of the Recommendation

5. SUPPORT FOR YOUTH PROJECTS

- Continue to support local youth projects through the European Youth Foundation, making sure that the application procedures are inclusive for organisations which work in disadvantaged areas and are often based on the work of volunteers.

6. THE YOUTH-FRIENDLY RECOMMENDATION

- Produce a video about access to social rights and the contents of the Recommendation, providing also ideas for what people and organisations can do with it at the local level.
- Offer more information more widely about the collective complaint mechanism of the European Social Charter, and push governments to adopt the Revised European Social Charter.
- Create a youth-friendly version of the Recommendation, as well as educational tools to use it, in order to raise young people's awareness about their rights.

7. TOOLS FOR NETWORKING AND PROMOTION OF SOCIAL RIGHTS IN THE WORK OF YOUTH ORGANISATIONS

- Create an online tool for organisations to self-assess how close their work is to the promotion of social rights.
- Provide a certificate to organisations working constantly on social rights, in order to recognise their work.
- Provide support letters to organisations and people who are actively fighting for social rights at the local level, in order to give credibility to their work.
- Put together, online, examples of good practices on social rights.

The Enter! Youth Meeting – how was it?

Participants' evaluations

Shortly after the Meeting, an evaluation form was sent out to participants. Below are the questions, followed by some of their answers. On the whole, the Meeting can be described as very successful from the participants' points of view.

General impressions about the Enter! Youth Meeting: how was it?

- One of the greatest experiences of my life
- Fantastic! Very informative, useful and positive
- The presence of both youth, youth workers and local authority representatives brought a really interesting dynamic to the event and it allowed a fruitful exchange of realities, ideas and practices.

What do you take with you from this meeting?

- Huge motivation, more knowledge about social rights, concrete ideas about future activities, partnerships
- What we will always remember is the difference between “I want to” and “I have the right to”.
- Cultural sharing and the feeling that youth work can really have an impact on social rights
- A meeting like this gives young people a platform not only to learn and develop different skills and experiences but also to share and voice their opinions and visions about the future of Europe.
- It's really motivational to see that the big European entities are concerned to make human rights a concrete and accessible reality to all young people. Seeing our huge group of participants and the Council of Europe working closely together made me believe this can still be a reality.

What did you miss in the programme?

- I wish there had been more time to interact with people. Being 180 in total, there is an obvious time problem, but I did feel we could have covered a bit more ground if there were more exercises like the *Enter Dignityland!*, where everybody in the group needed to interact with each other.
- More time to analyse and work on the Message, since it comes as a result of the whole process
- Moments where we could share and debate in specific groups of 1) Young people 2) Youth workers 3) Local and regional authorities representatives (LRA). It was a pity that the present LRA didn't have a specific moment to get to know each other and share their practices, projects and realities in this area, in order to grow stronger as LRA concerned with social rights.

How did the Enter! Youth Meeting contribute to your work on access to social rights?

- It definitely inspired us and supported us to create new collaborations and space for networking. Also we became more open-minded.
- I believe I can do something, I can make that change.

- Firstly we learned what social rights are. We also learned what the difference between having your social rights met and not having them met can make to the life of a person.
- I understood that I can co-operate more with local social services and the youth department implementing different social and cultural events where the topic of social rights for young people could be inserted.

Anything else you would like to share?

- The constant presence of the main stakeholders of the Council of Europe was very interesting and appreciative of the importance of this event. Nevertheless, the speeches were long and unilateral. It could be interesting to have moments more close where we can share and actually dialogue.
- Thank you for the idea and the opportunity to work in the Russian-speaking group in some sessions.
- We have left the meeting with an abundance of knowledge that has changed our lives and equipped us with information and knowledge that will support us to make a difference for those we work, study or spend time with.
- Keep NetWorking!!!!

Programme

Monday, 29 June 2015

Arrival of participants

Registration at European Youth Centre

19:00 *Dinner*

20:30 Welcome evening

Tuesday, 30 June 2015

09:15 Opening of the Enter! Youth Meeting

Snežana Samardžić-Marković, Director General of Democracy, Council of Europe

Lilit Chilingaryan, Advisory Council on Youth, Council of Europe

Enter! Project participants

09:45 Getting to know each other

10:30 Introduction to the Youth Meeting: programme, objectives, introduction to the message of the Meeting

11:00 *Break*

11:30 Introduction to social rights

13:00 *Lunch break*

15:00 Common vision, diversity of practices of youth work on access to social rights

16:00 *Break*

16:30 Common vision, diversity of practices of youth work on access to social rights

19:00 *Dinner*

20:30 Intercultural sharing evening

Wednesday, 1 July 2015

09:15 Stories of youth work on access to social rights by Enter! Project participants

09:45 Making social rights a reality: the role of the Committee of Ministers' Recommendation Rec(2015)3 on Access of Young people from Disadvantaged Neighbourhoods to Social Rights
with **Rui Gomes**, Head of the Education and Training Division, Youth Department, Council of Europe

10:30 Working groups on making social rights a reality: sharing about social rights and young people's situation

11:00 *Break*

11:30 Working groups on making social rights a reality: sharing about social rights and young people's situation

13:00 *Lunch break*

15:00 Social rights in practice: visits to local organisations and services and educational activities

19:00 *Dinner in town (self-organised)*

Free evening

Thursday, 2 July 2015

09:15 Stories of youth work on access to social rights by Enter! Project participants

09:45 Making social rights a reality: the approaches of the Youth Department of the Council of Europe to promoting access to social rights
with **Antje Rothemund**, Head of the Youth Department of the Council of Europe

10:30 Making social rights a reality: working groups on proposals for action plans and follow-up activities by participants and by the Council of Europe

11:00 *Break*

11:30 Making social rights a reality: working groups on proposals for action plans and follow-up activities by participants and by the Council of Europe

13:00 *Lunch break*

15:00 Learning from each other and networking

Revising the message of the Enter! Youth Meeting

19:00 *Dinner*

20:30 Enter! Party

Friday, 3 July 2015

09:15 Sharing outcomes of action plans and follow-up

11:00 *Break*

11:30 Final message and official closing

Reflections about the meeting by **Ingrid Ramberg**, the general rapporteur

Malcolm Byrne, Thematic Spokesperson on Youth, Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe

Gabriella Battaini-Dragoni, Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe

12:30 *Lunch and departure of participants*

Participants

Albania / Albanie	
Santiliana Dura (group leader) Silvia Dervishi Mirel Salaj	Beyond Barriers Association
Pashie Meçka (group leader) Erigreta Jakupj Lorela Elezi Izet Spahiu	Youth in Free Initiative
Armenia / Arménie	
Karine Stepanien (group leader) Zariné Harutyunyan Ruzanna Baloyan Rima Khatchatryan	KASA Foundation
Azerbaijan / Azerbaïdjan	
Turkay Gasimova (group leader) Gunel Ismikhanova Elcin Salmanov	Prison Watch Public Association
Belgium / Belgique	
Sergey Yuliyarov (group leader) Steliyan Nedkov Albert Antimov Kristiyan Hristov Philippe De Bont (local authority representative)	Cultureghem Association
Belarus - Bélarus	
Anna Gorskaya	SOS Children's Villages Belarus
Bosnia and Herzegovina / Bosnie-Herzégovine	
Senada Sušić (group leader) Gorana Plančić Dejan Rađjen	PRONI Center for Youth Development
Bulgaria / Bulgarie	
Dilyana Deneva (group leader) Mari Siilsalu Gatis Caunitis Gabriela Laanet (local authority representative)	European Network for Independent Living (ENIL)
Stefka Blagoeva (group leader) Atanas Atanasov Dimitar Lyutskanov Atanas Stoyanov (local authority representative)	Center for Community Development Vrastiri
Croatia / Croatie	
Ana Albrecht Čecada (group leader) Marta Tušek Tina Družić Julia Fueh Mihovilović	Ombudsman for Children
Cyprus / Chypre	
Hamit Mertka (group leader) Hazal Ozaktan	Youth Power Association
Finland / Finlande	

Samiuela Elone (group leader) Fiona Ipu Estella Elone Tran Le Da Huong	City of Helsinki Youth Department
Riina Rauhamaki (group leader) Aapo Huoponen Sonja Raatikainen Tanja Akerlund Maiju Aholaakko	City of Lappeenranta Youth Services
France	
Gastan Ranaivoson (group leader) Irvin Violette Olivia Prost (local authority representative)	JeunesClubSo
Corentin Poirier (group leader) Lena Collignon Shirley Cabarrus Mouna De Narkevitch	Union Nationale des Missions Locales (UNML)
Oren Gostiaux (group leader) Tristan Atmania Oriane Gostiaux	Lyon Metropole
Estelle Gardette (group leader) Cloe Renassia Clement Caps Sebastien Pellier Claire Florimond	I-PEICC Peuple et Culture
Theo Chenel	Association Gens Du Voyage Alençon
Lavinia Ruscigni (group leader) Andrea Negrea Fatma Aslikibar Karim Djiebli	AMSED
Omar Didi Gina Babinec	MAG Jeunes LGBT
Clément Dolisi	Ville de Strasbourg
Georgia / Géorgie	
Nato Antia (group leader) Luka Chargeishvili Mariam Masiuradze	LEPL Children and Youth National Center
Greece / Grèce	
Maria Roidi (group leader) Eirini-Maria Stamatopoulou Konstantina-Sofia Ramia	Municipality of Neapoli-Sykies
Hungary / Hongrie	
Éva Aranka Illésné Áncsán (group leader) Zsófia Németh Sára Bálint	SOS Children's Villages Hungary
Eszter Deli (group leader) Klaudia Ferencz Sára Rumi Viktor Szalóki	National Youth Council of Hungary
Ireland / Irlande	

Claire O'Brien (group leader) Tanya Shally	Focus Ireland
Italy / Italie	
Dame Diane (group leader) Ilaria Sola Livia Chiaratti Flavia Sesti (local authority representative)	Affabulazione
Laura Mazzanti (Group leader) Tomas Alberi Martina Consoloni Matteo Francesconi (local authority representative)	Giovanisì project of the Region of Tuscany
Malta / Malte	
Samantha Pace Gasan (group leader) Cheryl Bilocca Gabrielle Meli	Malta Girl Guides
Republic of Moldova / République de Moldova	
Mariana Morari (group leader) Ludmila Iachim Iuliana Tabacaru Gheorghe Chiriac (local authority representative)	Association MOTIVATIE Moldova
The Netherlands / Pays-Bas	
Sylwia Mulaba (group leader) Jonathan Lijster Sandy Cijnte	The Exchangeables
Henk Van Tilberg (group leader) Gabriel Gomes Barros	Jeugdwelzijnsberaad
Poland / Pologne	
Jaroslaw Sikorski (group leader) Patryk Szczepański Jędrzej Tadrzak	Stowarzyszenie Morena
Portugal	
Sofia Martins (group leader) Adriana Martins Sandra Vaz (local authority representative)	ECOS Cooperative
Ana Silva (group leader) Liliana Costa Carlos Felix Mariana Santos Ana Carla Costa	Association for the Promotion of Health and Community Development (APSDC)
Miguel Lamas (group leader) Carlos Antunes Bruno Barros Ines Lampreia	Street Soccer Association
Russian Federation / Russie	
Natalia Skorik (group leader) Alexandra Popova Alexandra Malceva	Falcongroup – Scientific Advisory Centre ‘Consciousness’
Serbia / Serbie	

Jelena Kaplanovic (group leader) Tanja Sadiki Katarina Ibric	AGENDA, Center for Family Support
Spain / Espagne	
Yesenia Margarita Jiménez González (group leader) Daniel Hernandez Tejada Cira Esther Ortega Rodriguez	La Casa de la Juventud
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia / L'ex-République yougoslave de Macédoine	
Deniz Memedi (group leader) Tamara Lazarevska Stefan Manevski Zorica Stamenkovska	The Centre for Intercultural Dialogue (CID)
Biljana Vasilevska Trajkoska (group leader) Ile Kuzmanoski Ivana Atanasovska Elena Trajchevska (local authority representative)	Youth Social Rights Network
Turkey / Turquie	
Merve Çevik Seda (group leader) Meltem Dinçer Esin Karakulak Recep Küçük	Toplum Gönüllüleri Vakfı (TOG-Community Volunteers Foundation)
Ukraine	
Aleksey Murashkevych (group leader) Ihor Orlov Kyrylo Dubrovin Valentyna Varvyanska	Lugansk Regional Centre for Youth Initiatives
Igor Nosach (group leader) Dmytro Vasyliev Kateryna Mukha Iuliia Nosach Iryna Dohoida	Charity Partnership for Every Child
Zemfira Kondur (group leader) Yana Bondarenko Mykola Zhemchuhov	Roma women fund "Chiricli"
United Kingdom / Royaume-Uni	
Fionn Greig (group leader) Claire Wallis Natasha Williams Rochell Rowe	Voice of Youth, Hackney, London
Jean Case (group leader) Ami Ancliffe Kara Powell Evie Scott Starr Wattam	Bulwell Riverside Centre – City of Nottingham

Preparatory team / Equipe de préparation

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Natalja Gudakovska	Facilitator – facilitatrice
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Lilit Chilingaryan	Advisory Council on Youth, Council of Europe
Véronique Bertholle	Youth Express Network – Réseau Express Jeunes
Rui Gomes	Head of the Education and Training Division, Youth Department, Council of Europe / Chef de la division éducation et formation, Service de la jeunesse, Conseil de l'Europe

Rapporteur

Ingrid Ramberg	Consultant
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Consultant CM/Rec(2015)3

John Muir	Consultant
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European Youth Forum / Forum européen de la jeunesse

George-Konstantinos Charonis	Policy officer / Chargé de projet
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Council of Europe / Conseil de l'Europe

Congress of Local and Regional Authorities / Congrès des pouvoirs locaux et régionaux

Malcolm Byrne	Thematic Spokesperson on Youth, Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe / Porte-parole thématique sur les jeunes du Congrès des pouvoirs locaux et régionaux du Conseil de l'Europe
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Joint Council on Youth / Conseil mixte pour la jeunesse

Lilit Chilingaryan	Advisory Council on Youth / Conseil consultatif pour la jeunesse
Paulo Pinheiro	Chair of the Joint Council on Youth / Président du Comité mixte pour la jeunesse
Laurence Hermand	European Steering Committee on Youth / Comité Directeur Européen pour la Jeunesse

Secretariat / Secrétariat

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Snežana Samardžić-Marković	Director General of Democracy / Directrice générale de la démocratie
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ⁱ Recommendation CM/Rec(2015)3

ⁱⁱ <https://wcd.coe.int/ViewDoc.jsp?id=2234521>