

## List of Participants and their projects

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



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Access to Social Rights for Young People

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

**Long-Term Training Course for Youth Workers  
(2013-2014)**

Residential seminar: 10 – 23 March 2013, Strasbourg  
Project development and learning: April 2013 – June 2014  
Evaluation seminar: 2014

# Participants

## Azerbaijan

Turkey **GASIMOVA**

Prison Watch Public Association  
[www.azpenalreform.az](http://www.azpenalreform.az)

## Belarus

Anna **GORSKAYA**

SOS Children's Village Association of Belarus  
[www.sos-villages.by](http://www.sos-villages.by)

## Belgium

Karim **SAAFI**

Shift & Twist  
[www.shiftandtwist.org](http://www.shiftandtwist.org)

## Croatia

Danijel **VASILJ**

Association for homeless and socially vulnerable people  
[www.udrugaoaza.hr](http://www.udrugaoaza.hr)

## Cyprus

Eleni **DRAKOU**

Youth in Power  
[www.youthinpower.org](http://www.youthinpower.org)

## Denmark

Anne Mette **GLARBO**

Red Barnet Ungdom  
[www.redbarnetungdom.dk](http://www.redbarnetungdom.dk)

**Mia Schmidt JENSEN**

Ungdommens Rode Kors / The Red Cross Youth  
[www.URK.dk](http://www.URK.dk)

## Finland

Niina **LJUNGKVIST**

Nuorten Kotkien Keskusliitto - Unga Ornars Centralforbund NKK ry.  
[www.nuoretkotkat.fi](http://www.nuoretkotkat.fi)

Onni **SARVELA**

Finnish refugee council  
<http://pakolaisapu.fi/>

## France

Estelle **GARDETTE**

IPEICC  
[www.ipeicc.fr](http://www.ipeicc.fr)

**Stefanie PALZ**

Mairie d'Emerainville  
[www.mairie-emerainville.fr](http://www.mairie-emerainville.fr)

**Laviana RUSCIGNI**

Association Migration et Echange pour  
le Developpement  
[www.amsed.fr](http://www.amsed.fr)

**Greece**

**Achilleas STAVROU**

ARSIS NGO for the Support of Youth  
<http://www.arsis.gr/>

**Ireland**

**Fiona DUNNE**

Irish Congress of Trade Unions  
[www.ictu.ie](http://www.ictu.ie)

**Claire O'NEILL**

The West End Youth Centre

**Italy**

**Monia DE PAOLI**

Ufficio Servizio Sociale Minorenni di  
Venezia  
[www.giustiziaminorile.it](http://www.giustiziaminorile.it)

**Francesco OSIMANTI**

Zefiro Social Cooperative  
<http://www.cooperativazefiro.it/#home>

**Latvia**

**Ljuba TIHOMIROVA**

Latvia's association for family planning  
and sexual health  
<http://papardeszieds.lv/>

**"former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"**

**DJengis HUSEINI**

Roma Democratic Development  
Association 'Sonce'  
[www.sonce.org.mk](http://www.sonce.org.mk)

**Milos RISTOVSKI**

Center for Intercultural Dialogue  
[www.cid.mk](http://www.cid.mk)

**Portugal**

**Miguel LAMAS**

Associação Nacional de Futebol de Rua  
(Street Soccer National Association)  
[www.futrua.org](http://www.futrua.org)

**Ana Sofia MARTINS**

ECOS - Cooperative of Education,  
Cooperation and Development  
[www.ecos.pt](http://www.ecos.pt)

**Ana SILVA**

APSDC Centro Cultural do Bom

**Russian Federation**  
**Olga INZHUVATKINA**

Saint Petersburg Charity Public  
Organization "Shag navstrechu"□  
<http://www.shag-navstrechu.ru/>

**Aleksandr GRIGOREV**

Regional governmental organisation  
'Murmansk social aid center for families  
and children'  
<http://cspsd.je1.ru>

**Serbia**  
**Petra MILOSAVLJEVIC**

Youth Creative Center  
<http://www.okce.webs.com/>

**Slovakia**  
**Roman BARTOS**

NGO Life and Health  
<http://www.zivotazdravie.sk/>

**Turkey**  
**Cevik SEDA**

Community Volunteer Organisation  
[www.tog.org.tr](http://www.tog.org.tr)

**Ukraine**  
**Oleksiy MURASHKEVYCH**

Lugansk Regional Center for Youth  
Initiatives Support  
<http://sms.lugansk.ua>

**Igor NOSACH**

International Charity Partnership for  
Every Child  
[www.p4ec.org.ua](http://www.p4ec.org.ua)

**United Kingdom**  
**Jean CASE**

Bulwell Rivberside Centre  
Nottingham City Council  
[www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk](http://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk)

**Elizabeth SMITH**

CATCH-22  
[www.catch-22.org.uk](http://www.catch-22.org.uk)

**Greig FIONN**

Voice of Youth  
[www.voice-of-youth.org](http://www.voice-of-youth.org)

### **Trainers**

<b>Silvia VOLPI</b>
<b>PJ UYTTERSROT</b>
<b>Alex COLLOP</b>
<b>Natalja GUDAKOVSKA</b>

### **Council of Europe**

<b>Mara GEORGESCU</b>
<b>Joanne HUNTING</b>
<b>Rui GOMES</b>

# Participants' projects - ENTER Long term training courses 2013-2014

*By alphabetical order of the country*

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## **AZERBAIJAN**

### **Turkey GASIMOVA - Prison Watch Public Association**

The project responds to the young prisoners' lack of information about social rights. Very often, after they exit prisons, young people face recidivism and unemployment. The project "Preparation courses for the life after prison" includes trainings for young prisoners who will be released in the following three months and the publishing of booklets on the rights of prisoners. The topic of the trainings will be social rights, especially right to education, right to employment and right to legal and social protection.

Turkey's project "Preparatory courses for the life after Prison" was for young prisoners who were at the end of their imprisonment. As the youth worker of the organizations Turkey was the coordinator of the projects organizing trainings at the prisons. The project started in September 2013 and in mid of October the trainings started in prisons. In general, there were 10 two-days training in 10 prisons and more than 300 prisoners who are at the end of their imprisonment and to be released within three months were involved in these trainings. The second training was in women prison which is the only women prison in our country that has 300 women prisoners living there. The main topics of the trainings were social rights, as well as effective job search mechanisms, how to approach relevant state bodies after release, preparing CV etc. We have also published booklets that cover this useful information. These booklets were also distributed in the prisons.

Conducting trainings and publishing the booklets were the awareness raising part of the project. After finishing the training, a round table was held with the participation of stakeholders in order to inform the public about the activities of this project, as well as to analyse the national legislation with human rights organisations and to make proposals. As a conclusion of this round table a recommendation was made to the responsible state bodies that include creating social worker and priest positions in the prisons.

During the trainings, especially at the training in women prison young prisoners were active and were interested in the topics of the discussions. It was very rare cases for them to have this kind of trainings, meetings. As there was more interest to the trainings among them there were some prisoners who were above 30 and were at the end of their imprisonment. There were also some prisoners with disabilities. We didn't refuse them participate as for us informing them was also important.

This was a very valuable experience for Turkey's organisation as they are coordinating connection between ex-prisoners and state bodies which helped the organisation to have more experience in this field and as well as to have more close cooperation with state entities. As an organization they had an opportunity to share our experience with members of national NGOs, human rights organization which in turn contributed to the visibility of the organisation.



### *Project visit*

In the beginning of March 2014 Turkey had a project visit by her mentor in the training course, Natalia Gudakovska. This was a very useful and productive 2 days visit in terms of meeting with representative of Ministry of Youth and Sport, Azerbaijan Youth Foundation, having discussion with local NGO representatives, informing them about our activities, ENTER LTTC, EYF and other European opportunities for young people. During the project visit of the mentor meetings were held with the head of Azerbaijan Youth Foundation, head of department at the Ministry of Youth and Sports and several NGOs, as well as a group of young people from different countries. At the meeting with a group of international young people who were the participants of Youth in Action Project in Azerbaijan, representatives of participating NGOs and also these young people shared information about their organizations' activities and had their contacts for future cooperation and partnership.

## **BELARUS**

### **Anna GORSKAYA - SOS Children's Village Association of Belarus**

In independent life, youngster-orphan and youngsters without parental care meet with a lot of difficulties and can't to assert one's rights in practice. The project is for 30-40 youngster-orphan and youngsters without parental care from foster families and small children's homes. The project aims to prepare young people from foster families, small children's homes (after school education) for the full personal and vocational development and formation of social competencies during the transition for the independent living. Individual and group work (round tables, trainings, seminars, consultations, supervisions) will focus on increase awareness and access to social rights such as education, employment, housing, health. Young people will be active participants in the project and construction of their life through the writing the individual development plan, implementation of the prescribed steps in practice, thereby taking responsibility, and in the evaluation process.

Anna's Enter! project had preparation period from April to August 2013 and we started to work with youngsters from September with aim "Preparing of youngster-orphan and youngsters without parental care from foster families and small children's homes for the independent living". There were a lot of activities: trainings, seminars, individual and group activities, consultations, supervisions. The priority in support for youth remain the welfare and development of each young person, so based on diagnosis, watching of pedagogues, individual development plans for 10 youth were prepared. About the results we can say in July-August 2014 after the self-assessment with active participation of youngsters.

## **One Enter! project story**

*Iryna was born in 1997 in Vileika, Minsk region. When the girl was 5 years old, her mother left Iryna and stopped to be interested in the girl's destiny. So, Iryna appeared in a social shelter, where from she was admitted to a foster family in the middle of 2003. From her childhood Iryna had bright expressive appearance and equally extraordinary character, characterized temper, directness and non-predictable response to words and events. She was always intemperate, impulsive, her mood changed frequently. Her reaction on critique was sharp and aggressive. Every year the problem with the manifestation of emotions increased. Iryna had difficulties at school, being more interested in humanities subjects, the girl barely managed to get positive votes in mathematics, physics, and chemistry. Partly, the aggressive behavior was caused by Iryna's tragedy of her life - her biological mother's betrayal. In interviews the girl often, shared experiences and misunderstanding why her mother had left her and nobody from her close relatives had protected her from entering the shelter. Iryna could not understand and forgive the person who gave her life. And she did not want be found by her relatives. In September 2013, received basic education and entered Minsk State Vocational and Technical College of Light Industry and Consumer Services, specialty "Hairdresser, manicurist, makeup artist", the girl became a member of the Enter! project and up to the present moment Iryna is supported by our pedagogues in SOS-Youth Facility. Being in a new situation far away from foster family, Iryna from the first days met difficulties: she skipped classes, had difficulties in learning, the college pedagogues constantly complained on the girl's behavior. All these took place even though she loved the chosen specialty "Hairdresser, manicurist, makeup artist" very much.*

*SOS-YF pedagogues done much to bring Iryna back to the normal life of a 16-year-old teenager. Primarily there were built trust relationship to make the girl take help. Emphasis was placed on the elaboration of injury - the betrayal of the biological mother and her relatives. Thanks to long negotiations and meetings there was obtained Iryna's agreement to find her relatives. So she met her uncle and his family. She managed to build a good relationship with them. Iryna understood she was not alone, she was remembered, loved, and support. Supported by her uncle, in the presence of YF pedagogues, Iryna for the first time after long years met her biological mother. They took quite a difficult conversation, there were many tears, asking for forgiveness, promises. The girl tried to understand her mother, but was never able to forgive her, although she is not so categorical in her statements in the biological mother's address. After meetings with relatives, and thanks to the constant support of pedagogues Iryna changed a lot in self- and her life acceptance: she gained confidence, felt being accepted by peers, found her place in the team, became more cheerful, kinder, can speak about her past without hesitating it, expressing gratitude to SOS-pedagogues. Now Iryna does all possible to finish the college well, as well as to get additional knowledge and skills. "I want to learn in my profession more than I receive at classes. This year I'll pass additional courses of manicurist, makeup artist". Iryna gets experience during the practice in hairdressing salons, doing hairstyles and manicure for her friends. The main thing is that she does it with a great interest and desire. In the nearest future, the girl sets a goal to accumulate more experience, and does not exclude the possibility to open her own business in her native town Vileika, returning to her house, where she lived for the first five years of her life.*

## ***DENMARK***

**Anne Mette GLARBO and Janni NIELSEN**

### **Red Barnet Ungdom - Save the Children Youth Group**

The project responds to the question of transition of young offenders to independent life after they leave prison, particularly young Roma people. The projects aim at establishing a coordinated network of youth organisations, social services and community organisations to enhance the transition from prison life to independent life of young offenders. The project will also include human rights education activities with young people, making them aware of their rights and their responsibilities and also enhancing a closer dialogue between the young people and different social actors involved in their transition from prison to independent life.

## ***DENMARK***

### **Mia SCHMIDT JENSEN - Ungdommens Rode Kors - The Red Cross Youth**

The project includes the training of youth street mediators, and detached youth work in a disadvantaged area in Copenhagen, as a tool for crime prevention. Street mediators will support young people in linking with the opportunities available for them related to their social rights in the City of Copenhagen.

## ***FINLAND***

### **Niina LJUNGKVIST - City of Lappeenranta Youth Service, Sammonlahti Youth Centre**

The project includes the development of the services of the City youth centres, by enhancing more cooperation with youth NGOs. Moreover, the project includes training session with and for young people, by which they will develop their social and civic skills.

#### **Smokers quitters**

There is a gap in our health services when you think of young smokers. Being less than 18 years of age, they are not allowed to buy any replacement for cigarettes. School or health services don't offer these young smokers any other help but talking or most of the time; detention. The European Social Charter and the Revised European Charter on the Participation of Young People in Local and Regional Life both clearly demand that local authorities organize educational and counseling facilities for people facing trouble with tobacco, alcohol etc. and this is where we saw a chance to use our expertise and status as youth workers.

Our work around this project started in October 2013 when we first met with the local school. We had had some education earlier on how to lead peer support groups for young people who smoke but are interested in quitting. Our plan was to gather one or two groups of 4-10 young people aged 13-17 who want to receive help when trying to quit smoking.

The school was a major partner and supported the project and the young people by making it possible to participate even if the meetings were during school hours. For some participants this allowance made it possible to participate as for some others it was a good motivator. We advertised the new group during October and November at the youth center and at the school. We put up posters. We talked. We sent an information letter to parents (this could not have happened without the school being so willing for cooperation). We talked more. During open evenings at the youth center we might subtly challenge young people coming in from having a smoke to a conversation about how they felt about it and if they had noticed our posters and considered joining the group (yes, you can combine subtle and challenge!). We gave a presentation at the school for the students who were interested.

As a result for all this promotion we finally had 11 in the group and we started the meetings at the end of November. The meetings included team building activities, information about smoking, test to measure carbon monoxide in your breath, lots of self-observation (for example how smoking makes you feel, what are the moments when you crave a cigarette and what could motivate quitting or help you win difficulties). It also included examples of healthy diet and the meaning of exercise.

After a few meetings we did a radical decision and dropped half of the participants out of the group. For us it seemed their motivation to participate was not so much quitting smoking but just skipping school. They didn't seem committed with participating and had skipped some of the meetings. As the group was based as much on sharing information and self-observation as it was based on building trust among the group members we as the leaders felt that some people participating only when they wanted to was jeopardizing the whole group.

This is why we ended up with splitting the group. We continued with the rest 5 who showed commitment. Of the 5 young people who continued 1 had to leave the group after changing to another school, so 4 members "graduated" from this pilot group. Three of them managed to quit smoking and one has significantly reduced her amount of smoking.

In the spring of 2014 we launched a second group due to some young people strongly asking for it. The second group started with 4 young people and will be active until the end of May.

In the beginning we had the idea this would be something we will first experiment with the pilot group and then continue with whatever experiences we gain. The school has been happy with the results and has shown interest to support this method of working in the future. We have started to consider possibilities to train some young people to act as peer leaders for future groups. There are plans within the youth office to experiment an online support group next autumn and our youth center will have another group in the autumn as well.

## **FRANCE**

### **Estelle GARDETTE – IPEICC**

The project addresses the right to employment and non-discrimination. Young people have little competences in understanding the discrimination affecting them in their access to jobs and they also need to develop more competences through non-formal education. The project includes several educational activities for young people aged 18 to 25 in a disadvantaged area in Montpellier, on the following topics: self-esteem, communication, discrimination and ways to combat it, guidance towards the labour market, etc. The project will have a local dimension and an international dimension, using youth exchanges as a tool for improving the skills of young people for the employment market and also for their citizenship. At local level, the project will develop a network among young people, youth workers and institutions, particularly the job centres and vocational guidance services in the city. One of the activities included in the project was a youth exchange between Estelle's organisation and Fiona's organisation.

A video was produced during the project on the topic of combating hate speech online.

Other activities in Estelle's project were:

- a forum of the city and participation in a radio even
- celebrations of Europe's day and an exhibition prepared by the young people themselves
- events on non-formal education and trainings for new youth workers

## **FRANCE**

### **Lavinia RUSCIGNI - Association Migration et Echange pour le Developpement**

The project aims to raise the awareness of young people living in a disadvantaged area in Strasbourg (Hautepierre) on education, social inclusion, non-discrimination and intercultural learning opportunities through non-formal education activities. The project will increase young people's self-esteem and inform them about local policies on access to social rights provided and international opportunities at international level (training courses, youth exchanges, work camps). Moreover, the project aims to change the perception of the youth and their community.

The overall aim of the Lavinia's project "TAKE THE CHANCE AND OVERCOME THE GAP" is to raise awareness about social rights among youth living in the difficult neighborhoods of Strasbourg, through non-formal education activities.

Several meetings and workshops will take place in different places in the region of Strasbourg with young people, those living in the disadvantaged neighborhoods, representatives of local authorities, social and youth workers of the city of Strasbourg. The target groups are youth aged between 17 and 30 living in five different disadvantaged areas of Strasbourg: Meinau, Cronebourg, Bishheim, SNCF and Esplanade. The target group is characterized by high early school dropout rates, soaring unemployment rates. Those who do work generally have precarious employment contracts, In addition to this, many of the young inhabitants of these areas also struggle with drug and alcohol abuse. Most of them are also of immigrant background, which exasperates discrimination and contributes to social exclusion on several different levels.

At the end of the project, the youth will be aware of local and national policies and schemes seeking to promote their access to social rights. They will also can be involved in various international activities in order to develop or strengthen their competences, skills and knowledge, such as different training courses and short-term volunteering abroad, which will promote their active citizenship and will result in their becoming more confident and autonomous in their daily lives. These programs will contribute to developing the social and professional competences of the participants, such as learning to work in a multicultural environment, understanding a specific context and adapting one's attitude according to it and so on, thereby enhancing their employability and their social inclusion.

During the different phases of the project AMSED will use a non-formal education approach (workshops, pedagogical activities, peer education). More formal meetings with experts and local authorities will also be included in the sessions. The project will also use the new technologies (social networks and blog) to share information and disseminate results.

## ***GREECE***

### **Achilleas STAVROU – ARSIS Social Organization for the Support of Youth**

In Greece, a raising number of young people are excluded from basic social rights: employment, housing, education, health services, quality of food, representation and participation, living with dignity. During this project a core group of five young people was created. Through a fully participatory process we designed a three hours mobile workshop for young people, which is addressing the issues of discrimination and exclusion. The follow up will be the implementation of the workshop to various youth groups and the beginning of a network.

Currently in Greece, the situation for young people is very hard. Considering crisis all people are affected and significantly the youth. This fact results in exclusion of a large part of youth from basic social rights: work, housing, education, health services, quality of food, quality of life, representation and participation. The absence of an effective policy for the protection of young people and the general social crisis worsens this situation. These have resulted in the rise of the phenomenon of fascism, gangs, bullying, violent behavior and marginalization of large proportion of young people. Young people often feel hopeless, helpless, believe in nothing and see no future.

In these conditions the need to survive drives a lot of young people to communicate with each other, exchange views and experiences and form small communities. At the same time a lot of initiatives and campaigns, mainly from social organizations and NGO's, are taking place to raise awareness about human and youth rights and trying to support the people affected by crisis.

In this environment we, in ARSIS, found through the ENTER! project an excellent opportunity to start a long-term project. At the beginning, to form a core youth group which working on the field of youth rights. Firstly, work together and then act as multipliers to other young people and groups with a view to create a network of active groups of young people in Athens. The project realised during ENTER! is the first step of the whole idea.

The core group (6 persons) formed after participating in a residential seminar that ARSIS organized. Then, during a fully participatory process, we worked to understand the current social situation in Greece and to perceive the position of young people in this environment and look for ways to promote youth rights.

We decided to do small but stable steps (no matter our big dreams!) because we noticed that this is essential if you want an initiative to last in time. Thus, we prepared, step by step, a mobile workshop for young people to engage with the issues of discrimination, exclusion (mainly from health, work, education) and youth rights. We designed the workshop to be flexible and adaptable to different ages, places or audiences. Also designed as a low-cost workshop (no cost!) which we believe adds to our independence and flexibility. Through this procedure all our team's members improved their skills and competences. Every member of the team can run the workshop and this helps us to adapt ourselves to the crazy schedules which all we have because of the everyday running to different work, studies etc. Each time, the people that are available are taking part in the meetings!

Now, we are preparing the follow up project which will be the implementation of the mobile workshop with different youth audiences and will start in Autumn 2014. Our aim was to find other young people to communicate about our rights and support each other. We didn't start a huge campaign. We looked next to us. To our friends, colleagues, neighbours or other groups, we or friends were involved in (theatre-music-sport groups and many more). We asked them if they have similar feelings about the reality and if they want to speak about youth rights through their participation in our mobile workshop. And guess what! We found out that a lot of people are interested in discussing and taking action for human/youth rights!

We want to link all the participants from the workshops by asking each group for a conclusion painting, photo, motto, song or whatever the participants want to present (about youth rights of course!). We will gather all these outcomes, forming an exhibition for youth rights which can be presented at various places, social centers and festivals. As a future project, we want also to bring together all these different groups, after their participation in the workshop, to explore possibilities of cooperation and new actions. In this way we want to see a growing network of aware and active young people talking and acting, individually and collectively, for our rights! Stay tuned! Maybe you are the next member of this network!

## ***ITALY***

### **Monia DE PAOLI - Ufficio Servizio Sociale Minorenni di Venezia**

The project responds to the question of transition of young offenders to independent life after they leave prison, particularly young Roma people. The projects aim at establishing a coordinated network of youth organisations, social services and community organisations to enhance the transition from prison life to independent life of young offenders. The project will also include human rights education activities with young people, making them aware of their rights and their responsibilities and also enhancing a closer dialogue between the young people and different social actors involved in their transition from prison to independent life.

## ***LATVIA***

### **Ljuba TIHOMIROVA - Latvia's association for family planning and sexual health**

The main idea of the project is to create a group of both Russian and Latvian school aged youngsters and to train them on health-related topics with non-formal methodologies as peer-to-peer educators for building collaboration among two different communities. The idea is to use health education also as a tool for intercultural dialogue and mutual understanding among these 2 ethnic groups which are often involved conflicting.

## ***THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA***

### **Milos RISTOVSKI - Center for Intercultural Dialogue**

The project is based on the need of young people to have a better understanding of their social rights and social policies and to be better involved in local decision-making processes that concern them directly. The project includes human rights education activities with young people from the three ethnic groups present in Tetovo, Albanian, Macedonian and Roma, and will focus also on the strengthening the local youth council through the involvement of groups excluded usually from this participatory process.

## ***PORTUGAL***

### **Miguel LAMAS - Associação Nacional de Futebol de Rua (Street Soccer National Association)**

The project "Enter the Game Too" is based in the disadvantaged neighbourhood of Padre Cruz, Lisbon, and responds to the need to reduce school failure and dropout, unemployment; youth risk behaviours and indiscipline in schools, parental neglect, and the need for acquisition and reinforcement of psychosocial skills necessary to the lives of children and their inclusion in the society. The project will promote access to social rights through sports ("human street soccer") and media activities where young people will have the main role. The next phase of the project is to connect young people from this neighbourhood with their peers in Europe.

White Space. The Enter the Game Too Team has been trying to think out of the box during the process of the project. Following the metaphor of Ine Van Emmerik, we believe that whitespace is a suitable place from where can emerges complexity in a creative way, in opposition to the strong tendency to deal with complexity using ways of control by procedures and systems such as technical and academic knowledge. We want to use the white space concept to build a place where social rights become part of an inner experience. White space is a room for performativity, for what is not defined yet. Therefore, for us an open map to fulfill.



So...

This could be just a black dot on a white page



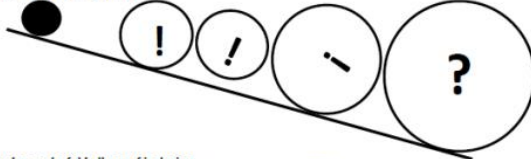
But for the Enter the Game Too team...

This is so much more than that!

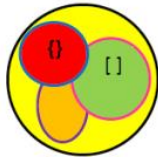


Are we having an overdose of imagination?  
No. I don't think so!

For us this is a rolling symbol...



It can be a colorful balloon of inclusion...

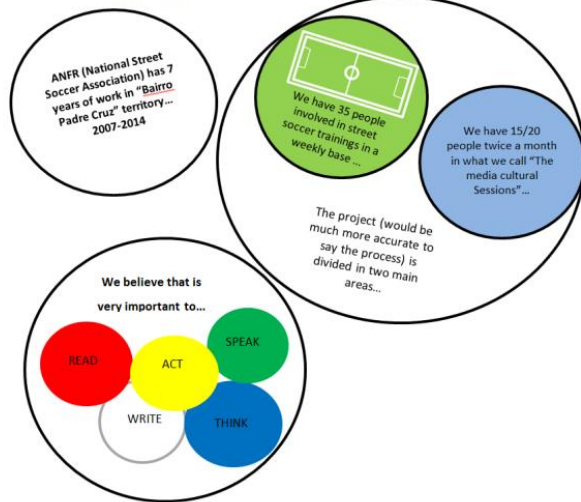


Or a magic wheel with letters...



This can be so many thinks!

This is how we say in a simple way



We love words and we love people...

We believe that what we usual call "informal" it is just, somehow, a simulation. And we are trying to reach authenticity and an effective infection (contagion) from people to people. Have we already said that we love people? I think so too!

Firstly, let us enlighten you about our political

point of view:

We have the deep conviction that it is worth the Mankind project and with it a full respect of the unity and uniqueness of each human being.

Secondly words, pictures and "maps" about what we have been doing so far...

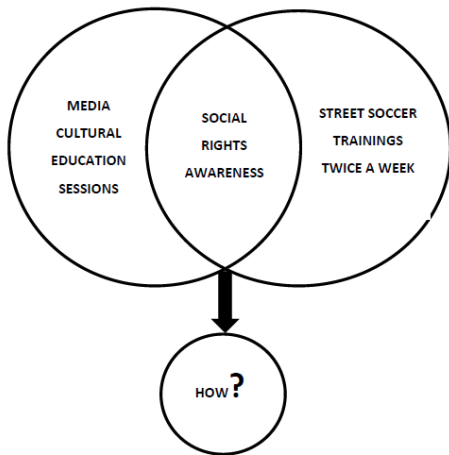
WORDS...

We have been placing in practice a "kind of personal reinterpretation" following some principles of the famous lesson "Rhizome" of Gilles Deleuze and Felix Guattari. Here are some quotes that have been fruitful to our intervention in what we call "The Sessions".

"Make a map, not a tracing. The orchid does not reproduce the tracing of the wasp; it forms a map with the wasp, in a rhizome. What distinguishes the map from the tracing is that it is entirely oriented toward experimentation in contact with the real. The map does not reproduce an unconscious closed in upon itself; it constructs. "It is itself a part of the rhizome. The map is open and connectable in all of its dimensions; it is detachable, reversible, susceptible to constant modification. It can be torn, reversed, adapted to any kind of mounting, reworked by an individual, group, or social formation."

"A map has multiple entryways, as opposed to the tracing, which always comes back "to the same." The map has to do with performance, whereas the tracing always involves an alleged "competence."

MAPS...



Through ENTER! project we have been sharing knowledge and deep understanding about the circumstances of Portuguese society and the need to aware for the social rights as a power to citizenship. With a group that is growing by confidence and trust in each other we intend to disseminate to other young people, neighbours and community the importance of social rights.

During the participatory process, the group has been sharing visions about the contemporary world by following a motto every of Media cultural Education Session. All together we have been creating basic rules such as:

- In every session there is a new word to discover applied to a HR/SR
- In every session we use the media information as a tool to discuss about what surround us and what we believe in;
- In every session everyone has a moment to speak;
- In every session everyone has a moment to be heard;
- In every session we use a ball to start thinking about the world and its rights;
- Everyone runs a part of the session in a way to share leadership and responsibility;
- In every session we use the body as a living tool.

Likewise, while the street soccer games are happening the rules are applied taking in consideration social rights. For example, every time someone discriminate other player for some reason, the game stop; the ball must pass through all players before scoring a goal without considering just strategies to win.

Seeing the others not as problems to solve but as mysteries to unveil

HOW?

Testing the difficulty of spontaneity and authenticity.

HOW?

Conceiving spaces where we go forward in utopia for real.

WHICH MOTTO?

Practice what you preach.

IMAGINE...

Imagine the floor of a room filled with pictures from newspapers and magazines. Imagine a session where the floor is a huge white page to share doubts. Imagine a boy with mental problems that never get out from his neighborhood, strolling around inside a rubber with a trustful group communicating without words. Imagine a group of people learning the meaning of new words in an old dictionary that we call "the wise guy". Imagine two weekly street soccer games trainings with a group of young boys and girls that learn by practicing how to respect the

others point of view. Imagine the pleasure of reading your first book at 24. Imagine that you are beginning to consider studying again. Imagine just reading the headlines of a daily newspaper and talk about it in group. Imagine a debate after a street soccer game about the richest guys in the world mixed with what is exclusion and poverty for you. Imagine how powerful you become when you dare to establish a humanized relationship with someone else. Imagine a group debating alternative ways to build social rights awareness.

Finally, just a small paragraph about the context we work in and acknowledgements.

Despite its aseptic appearance, the largest disadvantaged neighborhood of the Iberian Peninsula it's a small city of more than 10.000 people characterized by high levels of early school dropout, high levels of unemployment, violence, discrimination and poverty. The project aims to produce positive changes in the construction process of young people identity, so that they can overcome the difficulties and vulnerabilities of their reality.

Thank you to the Enter II project of the Council of Europe, for the opportunity to work in a project that we believe (disseminate the importance of social rights awareness) without the constraints that we normally have in institutional projects that think more about numbers and not in really results of changing young people problems.

## ***PORTUGAL***

### **Ana Sofia MARTINS - ECOS - Cooperative of Education, Cooperation and Development**

To encourage young people to be active in defense of their Sexual and Reproductive Rights, the Algarve region decided to "TALK ABOUT IT!"

The project "TALK ABOUT IT: Cooperation and Youth Participation for the Access of Sexual and Reproductive Rights in the Algarve" was released at the beginning of this year, with the main objectives of creating spaces of dialogue between decision-makers, organizations working with youth and youth, highlighting the issues related to the area of Sexual and Reproductive Rights while, at the same time, encouraging youth participation within this area.

"TALK ABOUT IT" is promoted by ECOS - Cooperative of Education Cooperation and Development, who has been developing a well-recognized work in youth participation and relies on a close partnership with "APF-Family Planning Association" the fundamental organization for Sexual Education and Sexual and Reproductive Rights in Portugal, and with the campaign "My Body My Rights" from Amnesty International. The project also engaged in partnership with various decision-makers like municipalities, regional authorities of Health, Education and Youth and several local and regional organizations, networks and informal groups of young people from the Algarve region.

This innovative project expects to be an important contribute for the raise of active participation of young people in the development of the local and regional strategies within the area concerning the access of young people to their Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights. Mainly, we expect to achieve these goals, mainly, through the following activities:

- Creating spaces for dialogue and cooperation between youth, decision makers and various actors with social responsibility in the field of Youth Sexual and Reproductive Rights. Currently, this network consists of various organizations of the Algarve region, such as the Regional Directorate of Youth, of Health and of Education, Student Association of Algarve University and specific department of students in the field of Health and Social Education, the projects of “Escolhas Program” with youth with fewer opportunities, and several other organizations working with youth and informal youth groups of the Algarve region. This is a space for collective planning and development of the activities previewed in the project, and it aims to be an open space for dialogue, collective reflection and creation of synergies between decision makers, youth organisations and youth;
- Holding a Youth Consultation to map their obstacles and difficulties concerning the Access of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, as well as their proposals of measures to overcome them. This process of Youth Consultation can be carried out by using different tools attractive and motivational to Young people such as - interviews, focus groups, assemblies’ simulations game, artistic workshops, dynamic online questionnaires and, specially, using methodologies of non-formal education - to emphasize the diagnostic process and participatory development. The hearing would provide the opportunity to discover what the Sexual and Reproductive Rights are. Moreover, to young people would be encouraged to take part in various types of activities- like volunteering service- within this area.
- Creating an event that can ensure the visibility of this project, of the topics of Youth Participation and Sexual Health and Rights in the region, and that can allow the sharing and creation of synergies between different initiatives, as well as bring some good practices and opportunities at national level to the region.
- Developing a final publication that can reflect the reality of the region in terms of data, existing services/ projects/ organizations on the field, current applicable laws and present the obstacles and proposals mapped by the young people through the consultation process.

The planning and development of the event and publication will be held within working groups of the regional network of partners. This will allow also to develop new competences on working together and to map the existing difficulties on collecting specific data about young people in the region. This project aims to have a strong “participative” component, not only from the different entities, organizations and individuals working on this area, but also from young people. As well as strong “cooperation” component, giving visibility and promotion to numerous initiatives and existing service, putting in dialog and collective construction different actors and supporting youth held initiatives from young activist through the contact with the partners. We strongly believe that “TALK ABOUT IT” project will boost a new dynamic of youth participation on the development of the strategies, services and offers created for young people, so they can be effective response to their needs and characteristic and bearing in mind the variety of their individualities. Moreover, we believe it will also improve the communication between youth, organizations and decision-makers within their Social Rights and their Well-Being.

## *Portugal*

### **Ana SILVA – APSDC**

The aim of the project is to establish a school bank of volunteers through peer education. Young people from a disadvantage neighborhood will be the ambassadors of this project and will mobilise other young people and local entities to joint, with the mission of involving young people in voluntary activities in organisations that work on social rights access.

A story with only a year...

One year ago, a group of young people from a disadvantage neighborhood, commonly linked to risk behaviors, were challenged to participate on a three days residential training course about volunteering. On this training course, seventeen youths made their first contact with what is being a volunteer, what was their expectations about that, what were their rights and duties.

Once this training course is ended, youths were challenged to define a strategy that could keep the group together and keep their levels of motivation either to volunteering, either to the group itself. So, to do that, young people suggested that we should do a meeting twice per month and regular volunteering work.

Since then, these regular meetings have several components: team building activities, non-formal activities related to Human Rights education, sharing ideas and information about new projects and some snacks at the end. During these meetings, young people start to be more aware of Human Rights as a whole, and have discussed more specific issues like discrimination, rights and duties, inequalities, poverty and social exclusion.

During the last year, young people get the opportunity to experiment several kinds of volunteering (including the participation on an international work camp in July 2013) namely organization of an exhibition of local artists, recovery of a public space and the project space, heritage conservation, toy collection and delivery to children from a temporary foster care center, participation on cooking and delivering food to homeless people and other people in needs and also school support to children's. So, since April 2013 have been performed 95 hours of volunteering work, involving 30 youths.

In October 2013 took place the official launch of the ENTER! Project "Have you an hour to share?", which was attended by several relevant entities at the local and national level in the youth field, volunteering and social inclusion, including the mayor, the president of the group of schools, the national director of Programa Escolhas, a representative from the national youth council and chairman of the national council for the promotion of volunteering. This event was prepared by young people and it was them that have made the presentation of the project and the logo that they choose to represent the project.

After this event, we connect with another local entity that wanted to start a project related to youth volunteering and after some meetings with the participants, took place a mini-exchange of two days in December 2013.

Since then, young people keep in touch with each other and created a Facebook group. So, in April 2014, took place the second residential training course, participating 17 youths (6 of the them are in project since the very beginning and also have been trainers on this training course).

On the training course, that happens in Estoril for three days, the first day was dedicated to human rights education, using several activities from Compass and adapting some of them (for example, we create a game that we named “Who want’s to be Humanaire”, Party Game with a quiz, draws and forbidden words). We also did two different workshops, where the participants could choose in which they want to participate: one related to discrimination and the other about global citizenship.

On the second day we try to established and make clear the link between social/human rights and volunteering work, doing some exercises where it became very clear the difference between needs and wants and where/in which situations volunteering work can be done. We also talk about the rights and duties of volunteers and entities that receive them. After that, “young trainers” were separated from the new participants and recorded some videos where they talk about their experiences on volunteering, why they start doing it and why they keep doing it. At the same time, the other group were preparing some questions and challenges to the other youths. After this separated moment, we presented the videos and did a kind of press conference.

On the third day, we proposed four kinds of volunteering work, so that young people could choose what they would like to do. The proposals were: work on a social laundry, help on community gardens, beach cleanup and do some games with childrens from a foster care center.

In the middle of all these activities, specially by night, we prepared some team building and simply fun activities, all of them at the beach.

## ***RUSSIAN FEDERATION***

### **Olga INZHUVATKINA - Saint Petersburg Charity Public Organization “Shag navstrechu”**

The project considers the specific situation of children with special needs and their integration in mainstream education. The project will include several training sessions for schools, including the school staff and students, about the way to integrate children with special needs. A specific phase of the project is an arts project, that will aim at increasing the awareness of all students of the situation of children with special needs.

Over the past year the initial idea of the project has changed a lot considering the changes in organisation, cooperation with local administration and human capacity of volunteers and staff. Unfortunately we could not manage to have an agreement with new administration of school and local administration of the region where the school is located. Therefore we had to change the main place of the project as now our volunteers cannot assist the special needs children from the orphanage in classes. The lack of support from local administration and unwillingness

to understand the need for volunteers' assistance to youngsters, let us think about other options for implementation of the project.

And we found one! We have replaced our project into the orphanage.

And now the core of the project is regular classes with 5 special needs children 15-17 years old (not mix group classes in schools as it was planned earlier).

Within our project we give these children an essential knowledge for their further life that they could not get anywhere else. There is no any classes about their social rights in school program. The life of our children is strictly regulated by the closed institutions, such as orphanages and psycho-neurological boarding institutions, where they spend all their life.

And for someone it might be considered that there is no need to educate them in social rights. But our strong believe is that young people with mental and physical problems must be aware of their rights to protect themselves within the institutions or even get a chance to leave them and live as much independent life as possible.

Such project could be a good example of social activity aimed at both releasing of young people from closed institutions and releasing the society from the old prejudices about young people with disabilities as well.

Within the project twice a month 3 volunteers give classes on social rights for 5 children with special needs.

Through games and dialogues with special needs' teenagers we are studying together their social rights. The topics we cover are:

- What Is right?
- Should I be given a PlayStation if I really want it?
- Should I be given a pill if I have a stomach ache?
- Can children without wheelchairs study with me in the class?
- Can someone offend me because I live in the orphanage?
- Can I have my own home and family, or I must live in the orphanage? ... and so, on

For some people these questions may seem quite basic, but it is essential for us that each participant knows the answers to them and remember them well! At the end of the project we will offer a questionnaire and few games to children to understand what they had learned. We hope that this project could be a good practice example and start for similar projects within our orphanage or other institutions for young people with special needs.

## ***SERBIA***

### **Petra MILOSAVLJEVIC - Youth Creative Center**

Young people are often discriminated in school, hospitals, social service offices, police and other settings in our town. There are laws and policies that guarantee access to social rights for young people and forbid discrimination, but it is still happening, and their access is not easily accomplished. The reason is the lack of information about social rights, prejudices and the lack of sensitivity for their needs. Young people affected the most are the ones that belong to vulnerable groups (Roma people, people with disabilities, Muslims...). The project will involve young people aged 13 to 19, students of high schools in Jagodina in awareness raising activities on their entitlements in relation to social rights and how they can access them.

## ***SLOVAKIA***

### **Roman BARTOS - NGO Life and Health**

The problems identified in the project are discrimination, antigypsyism and segregation in accessing social rights by Roma youth and a lack of Roma activists on local and regional level to participate in the decision-making processes that affect their lives. The project aims at empowering young Roma in building network of activists promoting better access for disadvantaged youth to social rights. A network of 15 to 20 young people will be trained to address with other young people questions related to their access to employment, housing, education and health, and will develop local peer to peer initiatives with young people, mostly Roma, enhancing also their involvement in policy-making processes on the local level (as community plans, city councils etc).

## ***TURKEY***

### **Seda CEVIK - Community Volunteer Organisation (TOG)**

The project aims to analyse the reality young people face in relation to their access to social rights and to have an effect on the national and local decision-making mechanism to consider the young people. "The Youth Said: Life is Hard!" project aims to empowerment young people who are between 16 – 25 and living Turkey. The process includes the creation of a project team, training courses which are related with social rights, youth policies and services and advocacy for youth, dissemination the Life Is Hard! game, preparation of a research paper about most debated topics and needs of young people by using the game reports and advocate to effect local and national decision-making process.



## UKRAINE

### Oleksiy MURASHKEVYCH - Lugansk Regional Center for Youth Initiatives Support

Young people in the Lugansk region aged 16 to 21 face health issues (STD, violence, depression) and lack of opportunities to participate in social life of their communities. A group of 10 young people will be trained as peer educators and organise training sessions with their peers on access to health and healthy lifestyles, as well as presenting to their peers' opportunities for getting active in community life, for example through volunteering. The peer education activities will be based on the needs of young people and identified together with them. The group of peer educators will also build partnerships with local authority health and social agencies and youth organisations. The last phase of the project is the preparation of the information kit for local authority social services about increasing local youth participation.

Aleksey's project "Access allowed" was originally aimed on providing information about free and friendly health and social services for young people. There were meeting with young people in several cities of Lugansk region, they were trained and now they are working on their initiatives related to social rights of young people. My role is mentoring. The interesting thing that I am not involved in this work every day directly because of the distance (I am from Lugansk and there are Rubizhne (120 km from me), Slavjanoserbsk (35 km), Krasnodon (45 km) other young leaders in other cities). See the map of Lugansk region.

Now there are 3 initiatives are being developed by young people. I asked them to tell shortly way is important that product they are working on. So..."I am sure that young people do not know where they can find help when some troubles occur (by my own example). Due to this leaflet they will not break their head over. They just go there and receive all answers their need..."

Valya, Rubizhne

(The expected result is the leaflet for young people with social and medical services information).

"The problem of drug addiction remains crucial here. Every year we are witnesses of growing number of young drug users. To liberate your life if you 've been trapped once is not easy. But the main thing that solution exists. There are ready to help to young people and their families".Aleksey, Krasnodon

(The expected result is anti-drugs city campaign and leaflet for young people with information about free rehabilitation centers for drug addicts in Lugansk region).

*"Such work and information will be useful for every student – from 1 course to graduate. They will not afraid to talk about their rights and they will know if they rights are violated. Sometimes rights are violated by the administration or employer, so it will be a very useful thing, as for me!"*

Ivan, Slavjanoserbsk

(The expected result is the trainings for students and the leaflet with students' rights).

## **UKRAINE**

### **Igor NOSACH - International Charity Partnership for Every Child**

The main project idea is to encourage a group of active young people from institutional care to establish and sustain a social network (informal or youth-led non-governmental organisation) which will provide support to wider group of young people in the local community in advocating for and accessing their social rights at the local level.

The primary beneficiaries of the project are young people aged 15-18 years who are brought up in child-care institutions, and young people aged 18-23 years, who left institution care and are settling their independent life (12-15 persons).

Secondary beneficiaries are young people with the same status as primary beneficiaries living in the city of Bila Tserkva and social work professionals and representatives of local authorities who deal with care-leavers' issue.

The initial project idea was to encourage group of active young people with care experience to establish and sustain social network which could provide support to wider group of young people in the local community in advocating for social rights at the local level.

During the following period the idea and way of implementation was modified, but still the idea of establishing of group of youth activists is still priority for organization, which is planned to be continued in future projects. During June-August I had preparation period, during which the project idea modified into empowering young people from 4 pilot sites of Kyiv oblast for better implementation of their human rights and promote youth engagement and volunteerism among disadvantaged youth. Enter-project goes within the strategy of my organization, Partnership for Every Child, referring youth participation and within its core-project "Sure Start: Care Leavers Integration Programme" referring assisting young people in becoming independent during transition period after leaving institutions.

Prior to the project start project coordinator from key pilot site Bila Tserkva, Yuliia, participated in study session "Coaching for Inclusion" which was held at the end of May in Strasbourg youth center. The participation was of great use for following project implementation. She conducted a series of workshops for vulnerable youth on themes of social inclusion and social rights. Also she achieved good results in individual support of young people for obtaining social rights (one of the successful stories is attached).

As a part of the project presentation for local partners was conducted in September in Kyiv. Representatives from Bila Tserkva city, Ivankiv, Tarashcha and Vyshgorod rayons (district) were invited to participate. Since project should be implemented in close cooperation with local professionals it was important to motivate them and clarify the concept of social rights. It was agreed that project coordinators in pilot sites would introduce the idea of social rights and way of obtaining them in local realities for groups of young people deprived of parental care. Further on they empowered young people to be active in obtaining social rights in everyday life during weekly life-skills training sessions.

Next project presentation was held for young people aged 15-18 years from pilot 4 sites (25 young people who are in alternative care). Participants were introduced basic project ideas and approaches. Also, they were encouraged to refer to project coordinators (who were present as well) for assistance in difficult situations. By the end of meeting we created symbolical network of support.

Later on 4 young people were selected (2 of them with alternative care-experience, 2 active volunteers) were selected and empowered to serve as peer-to-peers trainers. They were invited to participate in international youth practice exchange in Switzerland to improve facilitation and presentation skills. By the end of November 2 of them, Oleg and Ksusha were facilitating meeting of young people aged 18-23 years (25 young people with alternative care experience)

The aim of meeting was to present Enter-project and empower youth to be active. It was difficult not to agree with young people claiming that social rights are very important although they are not always respected. But facilitators emphasized that rather than being upset or angry that these rights are not always practiced, young people should use their knowledge of rights in a positive way. They can teach others about their rights and help think of ways to make the rights possible.

That's why we invited 2 successful care-leavers who shared own positive experience of defending own rights. Finally, participants analyzed own resources and competences and planned how they could be used for achieving positive results in different spheres. Participants' feedback was inspiring for youth facilitators and me personally.

Following this event, we planned to invite 8-10 most active and motivated young people to participate in the training within European conference of International Foster Care Organization (IFCO), which would take place in Kyiv in May. We had preliminary agreement with Enter-colleague from Belarus, Anna Gorskaia, that few active participants of her project who also had alternative care experience would take part in the training.

Also active youth with alternative care experience from Georgia, Moldova, Netherlands, Switzerland and United Kingdom was invited for 5-day training in Kyiv. The event was designed to train in basic leadership and facilitation skills, social rights through the theme of youth in alternative care.

But because of long term protests over Ukraine which took place in December 2013 – February 2014 Kyiv as venue city for IFCO conference was changed for Ireland and the youth training was shifted for July.

Meanwhile local project coordinators continue supporting young people in obtaining social rights...

#### Successful story

Olesia is one of the project's public faces – she is active, clever and cute. Now she is interested to participate in different events, including meetings at high level. But just a year ago she was shy, self-contained and non-communicative girl.

Olesia was born by single mother, who couldn't properly take care of her. In 6 years, she was

placed to child-care institution. Since that time her mother lost any contact with the child and hid from child care services in order not to pay alimony.

In May 2013 Olesia decided to enter medical college in Bila Tserkva and become accoucheur. But director of institution insisted that she would become typical secretary as many other care-leavers usually did. Olesia asked Yuliia, local project coordinator for support. Yuliia clarified to Olesia that she had complete right to enter whenever she wants, and no one had right to press her. Still Olesia was afraid to keep on her choice, but Yuliia continued supporting and encouraging her. Finally, Olesia became enough confident to talk with director and explain her plans. As a result, Olesia entered college she wished and became more self-confident and assertive.

Additionally, Olesia after leaving institution had to leave independently in her apartment, which was in very bad condition (her flat inherited from mother was not looked after during more than 10 years). Olesia couldn't receive temporary social housing for study period as she is originally from Bila Tserkva and has housing according to official register. To solve the problem Yuliia prepared official requests and held meetings with respective people to explain the situation.

When the problem was settled, Yuliia and Olesia started planning together renovation of the flat. Project coordinator created opportunities for young person to participate and express her vision of this long-term process, shared responsibility and delegated her some aspects of renovation. Just to compare: usually social workers do a lot of stuff by themselves to make renovation quicker but ignoring young people's interests and losing opportunities for personal development.

Currently Olesia is successfully finishing first year of studding, continues renovation of flat and is active project participant, motivation and encouraging other vulnerable young people to be active in obtaining their social rights.

## **UNITED KINGDOM**

### **Jean CASE - Bulwell Riverside Centre, Nottingham City Council**

The project aims to create a local campaign with young people from one of the most deprived areas of Nottingham that will address the issue of domestic abuse. The numbers of young people involved in abusive relationships is growing quickly. The young people will create either a piece of art, a music CD, or a performance for the stage or video, that will be given to schools and youth centers in the surrounding neighbourhoods to raise awareness about domestic abuse (rather than tackling it as taboo) and to prevent it.

## ***UNITED KINGDOM***

### **Elizabeth SMITH - CATCH-22**

The project will increase the participation for all young people who are at risk of exclusion from two mainstream schools in south London. It aims to create an environment for the young people to be fully respected, valued and accepted within their school and to review the schools behaviour policy. The project will begin working with 3 - 6 young people aged 14-16 years who are at risk of exclusion from their school. They will work to develop their competencies to deliver peer to peer training to a wider audience and engage more in the school life. Parents and teachers will also be involved in the process, to also break the barriers between the young people, parents and the school.

## ***UNITED KINGDOM***

### **Fionn GREIG - Voice of Youth**

The project includes human rights education activities for young people aged 12 to 19 from the area of Hackney, London. Young people will develop their awareness of social rights. The project will aim at enhancing youth participation also in international youth work non-formal education activities. Young people involved in the project are often discriminated against by the police, and often have low aspirations for their future. Learning more about their rights and being able to participate more in local community life will give them more confidence for their future, but also in their motivations towards present opportunities.