DEEP, VALUE-DRIVEN PATHWAYS TO DEMOCRACY

REPORT OF THE CONSULTATIVE MEETING (15-16 MAY 2018) FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A Council of Europe MID-TERM YOUTH SECTOR STRATEGY 2030

PRESENTATION TO JOINT COUNCIL ON YOUTH 16TH OCTOBER 2018

Howard Williamson

BACKGROUND AND AIM

- FROM ‘AGENDA 2020’ TO A Council of Europe YOUTH SECTOR STRATEGY 2030
- JOINT COUNCIL ROADMAP ADOPTED IN MARCH 2017
- YOUTH DEPARTMENT RETREAT FEBRUARY 2018
- YOUTH SECTOR CONSULTATIVE MEETING MAY 2018
- MEETING: REPORT AND NEXT STEPS
- JOINT COUNCIL ON YOUTH OCTOBER 2018
INTRODUCTION


- Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law
- Living Together in Diverse Societies
- Social Inclusion of Young People

THE NEXT YOUTH STRATEGY

- Flexibility, Innovation, Responsiveness
- Commitment to Values and Standards
- Embracing Continuity and Change
- A Barometer for Partners & a Communication Tool

RELEVANCE
THE CHANGING SOCIAL AND POLITICAL LANDSCAPE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN EUROPE

DRIVERS OF CHANGE

- Technological – digital divide, cultural and life-styles, methods of communication
- Demographic – ageing societies, inter-generational relations, resource distribution

CONTEXTS OF CHANGE

- Personal – vulnerability, lack of support, health and well-being; inequalities & exclusion
- Social – access to EET, apps for NFE and youth work, precarity/poverty, migration crisis
- Civic – lack of trust, disconnection, lack of voice, alternative platforms
- Political – terror, radicalization, rise of the Right, populism, nationalism, failing democracy
WORKING TOGETHER
COLLABORATION AT THE HEART OF COUNCIL OF EUROPE YOUTH SECTOR POLICY AND PRACTICE

• CORE Collaborations
  • Youth Department, European Youth Centres, European Youth Foundation
  • European Steering Committee (CDEJ), Advisory Council – Joint Council on Youth
  • EU-CoE Youth Partnership

• Partnership and Partial Agreements
  • European Youth Information and Counselling Agency (EYICA); European Youth Card Association (EYCA)

• Co-management
  • High level Joint Council works replicated for the preparation of events and training courses
  • Representation; distribution of power, recognition; participation; dissemination

MULTIPLIER EFFECTS
A EUROPEAN AND LOCAL STRATEGY

• Multiplication, cascading – exactly what?
  • How much within and how much beyond the Council of Europe youth sector? Reach?

• Avoid too much arithmetic!
  • Investment in people
  • Quality standards – knowledge, skills and values/attitudes

• Need for more robust documentation and dissemination
  • Map the nature and routes by which CoE experience is transferred
  • Acknowledge the challenges and barriers that ‘multipliers’ often face
  • Consider more strategic ‘target groups’
  • Strengthen communication to partners within and beyond the youth sector and the youth field
INTER-INSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS
A SHARED CONTEXT FOR DEVELOPMENT
MAINTAIN, DEVELOP, INNOVATE

• AN EXPANDED AND MORE COMPLEX FIELD
  • A Market Place with greater competition for (increased?) resources
  • A need for "constituency-building" (shared values, interests, mutuality and trust)?

• STRENGTHENED INTER-INSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS
  • Communication and Co-operation between the EU and the CoE, notably through the Partnership and its more stable work priorities
  • A greater identity for youth work
  • Recognition of the work of the CoE during EU Presidencies – more coherence and synergy?
  • A more consolidated approach to youth research, policy and practice across the youth field

AN AGENDA FOR MAINTENANCE, DEVELOPMENT AND INNOVATION

 ISSUES FOR MAINTENANCE DEVELOPMENT AND INNOVATION? A MOSAIC OF CONTINUITY AND CHANGE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Policy Knowledge/Research Practice</th>
<th>CONTINUE/MAINTAIN</th>
<th>DEVELOP/DIVERSIFY</th>
<th>INNOVATE/EXPERIMENT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOCIAL RIGHTS</td>
<td>Equalities</td>
<td>Social Inclusion</td>
<td>Well-being</td>
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<td>ENTER! Access</td>
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<td>Rights</td>
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<td>REVITALISING DEMOCRACY</td>
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<td>Citizenship</td>
<td>E-democracy</td>
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<td>Enabling</td>
<td>Internet governance</td>
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<td>Participation</td>
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<td>ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP</td>
<td>Autonomy</td>
<td>Youth work</td>
<td>Sustainable dev</td>
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<td>Democracy</td>
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<td>Media literacy</td>
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<td>Non-formal</td>
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<td>Critical thinking</td>
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<td>education</td>
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<tr>
<td>HUMAN RIGHTS</td>
<td>Access to social</td>
<td>Formal &amp; informal</td>
<td>Employment</td>
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<td>rights</td>
<td>education</td>
<td>Social protection</td>
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<td>ETE</td>
<td>LGBTI issues</td>
<td>Enabling</td>
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<td>Gender equality</td>
<td>Peacebuilding</td>
<td>Environments</td>
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DISTINCTION
THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE YOUTH SECTOR’S PLACE IN EUROPE TODAY

- THE EU’s ‘Engage, Connect, Empower’ framework for its next youth strategy
- The wider youth field’s unattributed use of CoE methodologies and themes
- The Council of Europe’s clarification of its ‘youth support’ framework for its member states

[Diagram showing Council of Europe Commission, Human Rights, Democracy, Rule of Law, Participation, Information, Access to Rights, Youth work, Social Inclusion, Mobility, The canvas of youth policy, Concepts, Laws/budget, Delivery, Donors, K-cutting issues, Enablers, Evaluation]

DISTINCTION 2
SO WHAT IS DISTINCTIVE ABOUT THE WORK OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE YOUTH DEPARTMENT?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Benefits</th>
<th>Governments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>On what do we work with the Council of Europe Youth Department rather than with others?</td>
<td>Values, Trust, Co-management, Innovation, Non-European coverage – an inclusive platform for dialogue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What does the Council of Europe youth department offer that others cannot?</td>
<td>Knowledge, Acceptability, Tools, expertise and standards, An external view on internal youth policy &amp; practice, Institutional co-operation, Capacity-building and policy assurance measures, ‘Modes of good behaviour’, A ‘unique spirit’ for youth policy development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What does the Council of Europe youth department guarantee is that no-one else can guarantee?</td>
<td>Co-management (guarantor of youth voice/participation), transparency and equal partnerships, Non-discrimination – responsibilities, freedom of content, quality, community and sustainability</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
DISTINCTION 3
CLUSTERING THE TESTIMONY

• **Principled** – grounded, trusted, transparent, respectful, collaborative and ‘anchored’

• **Procedural** – institutional co-operation, long-term planning, innovation, pilot projects
  • ‘participatory build strategy’

• **Policy-oriented** – external view, support measures, opportunity-focused, ‘user-friendly’

• **Practical** – tools, expertise, capacity-building, knowledge and skills, cohesive & coherent

‘A unique spirit’ providing ‘models of good behaviour’ and a ‘secure platform’ for experiential and other forms of learning

RESOURCES
METHODOLOGIES AND INSTRUMENTS

• **Human resources**
  • Staff of the Youth Department and the Partnership; CDEJ/AC; FEYR/EK/Y/Trainers’ Pool

• **Physical resources**
  • European Youth Centres; centres with the Quality Label

• **The wider legacy**
  • Innovative standards
  • The Partnership and other partnerships and partial agreements
  • Inter-governmental co-operation
  • Landmark campaigns
  • Specific educational methodologies
  • Dedicated publications and training materials
  • The promotion and recognition of non-formal learning, youth work and youth policy
OUTPUT
AN INDICATIVE CHECKLIST

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Human rights education</th>
<th>Access to social rights</th>
<th>Democratic citizenship</th>
<th>Youth participation</th>
<th>Roma youth and combating anti-gypsyism</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Young refugees</td>
<td>Young people in</td>
<td>Young people with</td>
<td>Gender equality</td>
<td>Heteronormativity, homophobia,</td>
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<tr>
<td>asylum-seekers</td>
<td>vulnerable situations</td>
<td>disabilities and</td>
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<td>biphobia and transphobia</td>
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<td>and displaced persons</td>
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<td>mixed abilities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Intersectionality and</td>
<td>Environment and</td>
<td>Youth information,</td>
<td>Intercultural</td>
<td>Combating racism and discrimination</td>
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<tr>
<td>multiple discrimination</td>
<td>sustainable development</td>
<td>counselling and</td>
<td>learning and</td>
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<td></td>
<td>coaching</td>
<td>appreciation of</td>
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<td>Islamophobia</td>
<td>Peace-building and</td>
<td>Flight and</td>
<td>Global solidarity</td>
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<td></td>
<td>conflict transformation</td>
<td>migration</td>
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<td>Young Muslims in</td>
<td>Social inclusion</td>
<td>Transition to</td>
<td>Access to sports</td>
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<tr>
<td>Europe</td>
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<td>autonomy and</td>
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The labour market

DISTINCTION 4
A SECURE, SUPPORTIVE AND PARTICIPATIVE SPACE FOR LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT

• The European Youth Centres as a site for educational practice – cultivating the development of ideas
• The European Youth Foundation as a source for youth work practice – supporting innovation and development in the field

Future priorities? Balancing old and new?
More for less? Doing things differently?

The approach is unique. Other institutions may do similar things – training, publications, symposia – but it is the process and quality of participation and assurance that is unique
HARNESSING THE POWER OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE YOUTH SECTOR
ENLISTING AND SUSTAINING A COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

- Our DOMAIN of interest, Our COMMUNITY, and Our PRACTICE
- Across both the internal structures and wider relationships
- Extensive, inclusive, wide-ranging
- Consolidated and developed over 50 years
- Pioneering – young Roma, LGBTI, young people, young refugees, young people from minorities
- But now an even more outward-looking, promotional position may need adopting – municipalities, new institutional players, beyond youth organisations [??]

DEMONSTRATING SUCCESS
INDICATORS AND MEASURES OF OUTCOME AND IMPACT

- Our Theory of Change?
- Outputs are very clear
- Outcomes and impact – more elusive
- Dealing with pressures for outcome measurement within process-driven work
- Reach and impact: the ‘right’ people, the ‘right’ target groups, the ‘real’ impact
- Reliance on intermediaries making different contributions
  - government officials, young politicians, youth workers, young people
- Responding to need v. Promoting the vision
MAPPING THE BOUNDARIES
REALISM, REACH AND REPRESENTATION

- **Defining the challenge (being ‘realistic’)**
  - Priorities within expressions of ‘need’; understanding capacity and dependency; balancing directions of travel (bottom up / top down)

- **Understanding the limits of ‘reach’**
  - Who does the Youth Department reach?; feasibility of reaching others; barriers to wider engagement (of language)

- **Considering the arguments for broader ‘representation’**
  - Beyond youth organisations?; local authorities; open youth work...?

TWO CONUNDRUMS
INDIVIDUAL AND INSTITUTIONAL

- **INDIVIDUAL**
  - Council of Europe participation experience and individual ‘empowerment’ now deeply embedded (so no clear association) within numerous systems in the youth field through professional practice

- **INSTITUTIONAL**
  - Diffusion of issues and methodologies that derived from the work of the Council of Europe across the expanding ‘youth sector’ market, with little memory or acknowledgement; others providing funding or services get the credit!

- How should this be addressed?
CONCLUSION
KEY IMPERATIVES FOR ACHIEVING DEPTH IN A NEW STRATEGY

- Since Agenda 2020 (2008), three key changes have taken place that will need to be carefully and explicitly acknowledged and accommodated within a new strategy

1. What counts as evidence of **outcome and impact**?

2. What are the **distinctive benefits** that accrue through the Council of Europe youth sector?

3. Need to **promote, position, and prove**: depth and breadth; place in a new political, social and professional landscape; justify investment of human and financial resources