



Supported by the Flanders Department  
Foreign Affairs & Flanders Department  
Culture, Youth and Media



DDP-YD/ETD (2020) 2 (rev)

Strasbourg, 17 January 2020



## Taking young refugees and asylum seekers seriously

Knowledge, policies and youth work practices

European reflection and discussion workshop

**14 February 2020**

Vrije Universiteit Brussel  
Promotion room, Pleinlaan 2, Brussels

The programme language is English



## PROGRAMME

### FRIDAY, 14 FEBRUARY 2020

- 09:30 Arrival of participants, reception and coffee
- 10:00 Welcome by **Professor Dominique Verté**, Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences, Department of Educational Sciences, Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB)
- 10:05 Opening addresses by
- **Julie Bynens**, Secretary General of the Department of Foreign Affairs of Flanders
  - **Ambassador Drahoslav Štefánek**, Special Representative of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe on Migration and Refugees
- 10:30 Youth at work, testimonies by
- **Zaher Barood**, The Young Republic, participant in the project Youth.Together
  - **Aida Ibrahim**, participant in the project Youth.Together
  - **Pegah Moulana**, Advisory Council on Youth (Council of Europe)
- 10:45 Youth policy and youth work standards of the Council of Europe on young refugees in transition to adulthood, by **Rui Gomes**, Youth Department of the Council of Europe
- 11:00 Young newcomers: a contextual framework on experiences in urban Belgium, by **Minne Huysmans**, Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences, Department of Educational Sciences - VUB
- 11:30 Coffee break
- 12:00 Working groups (I):
- The role of youth work in supporting newcomers in relation to the research findings of Minne Huysmans
- 13:15 Lunch
- 14:15 Working groups (II):
- How to mainstream policy guidelines in support of young refugees in youth work, education and youth policy frameworks at national and local levels
- 15:30 Presentation of the conclusions of the working groups
- 16:10 Conclusions and closing of the workshop by
- **Andreia Henriques**, SALTO Inclusion and Diversity
  - **Andrea Casamenti**, European Youth Forum
  - **Jan Vanhee**, European Steering Committee for Youth and EU Youth affairs attaché (Belgium).

16:30 Closing reception

## ABOUT THE WORKSHOP

The European reflection and discussion workshop is organised as a follow up to the project [Youth.Together](#), implemented by the Youth Department of the Council of Europe with financial support of the Flemish Department of Foreign Affairs. *Youth.Together* supports the social inclusion of young refugees and their access to education, self-development and autonomy through youth work and non-formal education activities, notably through a long-term training course for youth workers and refugees. *Youth.Together* is part of the [Council of Europe Action Plan](#) on Protecting Refugee and Migrant Children and relates to the Committee of Ministers [Recommendation on Supporting Young Refugees in Transition to Adulthood](#).

The centre piece of the workshop programme will be the PhD research of Minne Huysmans, Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences, Department of Educational Sciences of the Free University of Brussels, about attitudes, supporting networks and projects for participation and active citizenship of newcomers in Belgium. The study challenges perceptions and provides new insights about the needs and aspirations of young newcomers. Further knowledge from the EU-Council of Europe youth partnership: a resource page on the [rights, inclusion and participation of young refugees](#); the youth knowledge book [Between Insecurity and Hope, reflections on youth work with young refugees](#); and the handbook for practitioners [Step by step together – Support, Tips, Examples and Possibilities of youth work with young refugees](#).

The conclusions of the workshop will nourish the implementation of the Council of Europe Recommendation as well youth policy and youth measures by stakeholders in migration, education and youth work fields.

The programme is open for youth workers, community leaders, volunteer, activists, educators, policy makers, representatives of public authorities, researchers and everybody concerned for and associated with the work done for social inclusion of young refugees. The programme will be run in English only.

Registration in advance is mandatory and can be done through the [JINT vzw website](#). **The deadline for registration is 11 February 2020.**