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February 2015



Youth and European Social Work

Dear Patricia Duensing,

Welcome to the first YES Forum Newsletter in 2015! Last year was as much a year of opportunities as it was of challenges for our organisation. Through our resolved commitment to working with young people we have shown our resilience.

If you scroll down to our activities section you will notice that we have some exciting new projects starting in 2015. This is just the beginning ...

Best wishes,

Annett Wiedermann

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Focus: European Developments

Agreement reached on new EU budget

At the end of last year, negotiators of the Parliament and the European Council arrived at a provisional agreement on the European Union budget for 2015. The outstanding issue was the large number of unpaid bills, which rose from €5 billion in 2010 to €23.4 billion at the start of 2014; as this amount is expected to rise, fears were directed towards a complete collapse of the budget.

One highlight of the accord was the allocation of additional funds for the EU research and development programme Horizon 2020 (€45 million), and the Erasmus+ programme (€16 million).

For more details, click [here](#).

EU Commissioner for Youth pledges to put young people in front

At his first public appearance as Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport, Tibor Navracsics outlined the priorities of his five-year term in office. In the picturesque Romanian city of Cluj-Napoca, Navracsics faced an audience of 250 young people and proclaimed: "I would like all young people in the EU to know: I am your Commissioner." Throughout his term, the Commissioner aims to reach out to a million young people in an effort to strengthen and extend the EU's democratic consultation and dialogue with young people as well as support the development of better recognised informal and non-formal learning.

For more details, click [here](#).

New report on Early Leaving from Education and Training

In November, a joint Eurydice/Cedefop [report](#) was presented to the European Commission on early leaving from education and training. Although early leaving has gradually decreased in the EU-28, the study highlights the multifaceted complexities confronting young people at the individual level as

well as the systemic repercussions on their chances for employment in terms of acquiring relevant labour market skills and qualifications.

For more details, click [here](#).

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YES Forum's activities and members' activities

2015 General Assembly in Bordeaux

Together with our member, Comité National de Liaison des Acteurs de Prévention Spécialisée (CNLAPS), and its regional affiliate Action Jeunesse Pessac, we will organize our 2015 General Assembly in Bordeaux, France, between 19 and 21 May. The topic of this year's event is **“Detached, outreach and street-based work - how to reach and involve young marginalised people in their communities”**.

Our annual event is open and everybody is free to engage in discussions. We welcome your ideas and experiences to contribute to the debate on effective approaches in street-based work. To register please click [here](#). **Registration is open until 15 March 2015.**

For more information, please consult the [official invitation](#).

Review: 2014 Policy Event in Brussels

In December 2014 YES Forum continued for the second year to invite the chief executives of our member organizations to a two-day policy event in Brussels. The event offered participants the opportunity to engage directly with relevant EU-level actors in their field of activity, to give their positions and opinions on EU social and youth policy, and also to exchange youth-related expertise for a more inclusive Europe.

With topics ranging from education and transition to an autonomous life to the new EU employment initiatives and social inclusion, the YES Forum 2014 Policy Event hosted keynote speeches by distinguished guests including Xavier Prats Monné, Director General DG-EAC, and Terry Reintke, a young MEP (Greens/European Free Alliance) sitting on the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs.

To read the report on the proceedings, click [here](#).

New YES Forum Strategic Partnership targeting Poverty

Starting in May 2015, YES Forum leads the strategic partnership “Our life. Our

voice. Young people and poverty”, which explores young people’s attitudes to poverty and what it means for them to live in families struggling to make ends meet from day to day. Together with our members The Children's Society (UK), Zefiro (IT), Musikcafé After Eight (FI), IB (DE), Fundatia Ruhama (RO), and in collaboration with our Belgian partner Dynamo International, we aim to set up a group of young people experiencing poverty in 5 countries, which are different with regard to welfare system, historical development, and economic performance.

Based on a methodology originally developed by the Children’s Society, these groups of 12-15 young people are accompanied by youth workers applying interactive and participatory methods to get an insight into the experience of young people in poverty. The young people create discussion on different perceptions of poverty and as a result formulate their ideas and recommendations against poverty and what real support should look like. The project will run until April 2017.

More information is available on the YES Forum [website](#).

YES Forum mobility project in 2015

At the Project Planning Meeting held in September 2014, the YES Forum welcomed young people from the target groups of the member organisations and volunteers to contribute to the discussions on upcoming projects. The problem the young people identified in their communities and wished to address through this project is an increased intolerance towards people who are culturally different.

Through this ongoing project in 2015 we want to bring young people with fewer opportunities, namely those with immigrant background and natives closer to the European project and closer to each other, help them develop intercultural competencies and thus promote tolerance towards people from different cultural backgrounds. The project includes YES Forum members Asociatia Nevo Parudimos (RO), Piteã Municipality (SW), Zefiro (IT), The Children's Society (UK), Jongerenwerk Barkema en de Haan (ND) and St. Johannis GmbH (DE), as well as partner Asociatia Social Art (RO).

More information about the project is available on the YES Forum [website](#).

YES Forum at the “Forever Young?” Symposium in Strasbourg

The Youth Department of the Council of Europe organized between 1 and 3 December 2014 a symposium aimed at identifying and strengthening the role of youth policy and youth work in responding to the challenges of young people in relation to transition to autonomy and working life. YES Forum participated at the event held at the European Youth Centre in Strasbourg, France, and contributed with good practices in youth work and the drafting of

concrete, effective measures to support young people in their pursuit of an autonomous life.

For more details, click [here](#).

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Calls for Proposals, Conferences and Trainings

Upcoming ERASMUS + Key Action Deadlines

The first 2015 deadlines for ERASMUS+ project proposals are 4 February and 30 April. In complement to the 2015 General [Call for Proposals](#), the DG-EAC released the third version of the official ERASMUS + [Programme Guide](#) on 14 November 2014.

For more details, click [here](#).

Daphne - Transnational projects linked to children as victims of bullying

The EU's Directorate-General for Justice, Fundamental Rights and Citizenship of the European Commission issued a [Call for Proposals](#) (JUST/2014/RDAP/AG/BULL) for action grants supporting "transnational projects on children as victims of bullying at school, in residential care settings and in detention". As part of the "Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme (2014-2020)", with a total available budget of EUR 1.500.000, the call states that the requested grant amounts must fall between EUR 75.000 and EUR 300.000.

The deadline for the call for proposals is 10/03/2015 12:00 (noon) CET.

For more details, click [here](#).

Call for Projects to support equal economic independence of women and men

The [Call for Proposals](#) (JUST/2014/RGEN/AG/GEND) launched by DG Justice last year is restricted to the EU Member States, Iceland and Liechtenstein). The call is focused on equal economic independence, and aims to support national actors in promoting equality between women and men as well as to improve gender mainstreaming in the policies and programmes of the participating countries.

The deadline is on 31.03.2015 12:00 (noon) CET.

For more details, click [here](#).

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Other news

French extension of Youth Guarantee

Late last year, France announced its plans to expand its youth employment programme to cover 61 new departments. The decision will support 50.000 young people in 2015 and 100,000 in 2017, according to François Rebsamen, the French Employment Minister. Estimated at 164.2 million euros in state funding (another 31.4 million euros are provided by the EU's Youth Employment Initiative fund), the scheme includes a personalised tuition to support them into work, as well as a monthly remuneration of 450 EUR.

Along with the news, concerns regarding the long-term sustainability of the Youth Employment Initiative have resurfaced as its entire 6 billion euros budget has already been allocated for the years 2014 and 2015. Further allocation of money is reportedly contingent on the initiative's concrete results.

For more details, click [here](#).

Launch of 2014 European Inventory on Validation

At the behest of DG EAC, ICF International produced the 2014 edition of the European Inventory on Validation of Non-formal and Informal Learning, a European-wide tool for Member States to further monitor and develop validation within their countries. The new edition surveys conditions and policy developments in this field across 33 European countries, and supplies examples of good practices as well as a thematic analysis of key issues relating to the design and implementation of validation initiatives.

For more details, click [here](#).

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