



## ***Project Description: Youth – Empowerment – Solutions***

### **The project coordinator: Y.E.S. FORUM (EEIG)**

- is an organisation tackling social exclusion of young people and promoting active citizenship
- is a network- exchanging ideas and experience- drawing together practice, research and policy
- has members from organisations and individuals in 15 European countries with the objective to extend to all member countries of the European Union eventually.
- uses modern ICT and multi media methods to involve, include both young people and organisations working with them

### **When, what, who and where?**

- Y.E.S. FORUM was set up in 2001 with the support of the EU programme to prevent and combat social exclusion.
- The initial project developed the organisation Y.E.S. FORUM to provide not only a means of communication, but a lobbying organisation, which would use its experience and its networks to increase inclusion of young people.
- Y.E.S. FORUM was set up as a formal organisation at European level in 2002. Founder members are from Italy and Germany, but there are members from 15 countries now, and a series of levels of involvement which members can chose to have.
- Y.E.S. FORUM members exchange regularly through <http://www.yes-forum.org> using internet chats, email and the whole range of services offered on the website. These are developing all the time. Partners involved in joint projects meet or exchange according to the requirements and needs of their joint enterprise. The formal Y.E.S. FORUM organisation meets to create a strategy, business plan and conduct business.

### **Y.E.S. FORUM's advocacy work**

- What unites Y.E.S. FORUM members is a commitment to involve young people directly in voicing their concerns and wishes to policy makers.
- Through its direct contact with young people and the network of skilled and experienced professionals working with them, Y.E.S. FORUM can contribute to the development of effective and appropriate policy measures and provide feedback on youth and social policy proposals.
- We want all stakeholders to work with us to solve the problems that young people often have in becoming full citizens and in accessing local services



## **Project Description: Youth – Empowerment – Solutions**

### **Y.E.S. Project: Youth-Empowerment-Solutions**

For the duration of two years Y.E.S. FORUM started in January 2005 its Project **Youth-Empowerment-Solutions** involving member organisations from Sweden (Urkraft), UK (Children’s Society), Italy (Enaip), Germany (Getup, BAG EJSA), Spain (IMFE) and Hungary (ANHSH). The project is funded by the European Commission and is linked to Y.E.S.’ strategy to strengthen the political representation of the interests of dis-engaged youth on local, regional and European level.

By promoting **networking** between local projects in favour of youth participation in Europe we intend to develop a **sustainable approach to link partners in different countries long-term** which can **serve as a model** for others. **To apply this to the work with youth at risk of social exclusion is a particular goal of this project.**

During our first coordination meeting in Stuttgart, 2-5 Feb 05 it was evident that the involved partners work in different thematic fields and with different target groups

However the critical assessment of methods and approaches to youth participation is our common objective and will be in the centre of the Y-E-S project. We want to identify obstacles, barriers and challenges to youth participation to see what works and what does not work.

The project activities include coordination meetings, seminar and conferences, bi-lateral exchanges between partners and online information sharing using

<http://www.yes-forum.org/y-e-sprojectteam> and <http://www.yes-forum.org/y-e-s> for public dissemination.

As illustrated below we work on different levels: each partner is promoting youth participation locally but engaged in exchange transnationally. The project has also a clear approach to influence policy and to create a standard of participation of **socially excluded** young people.

Local level	<b>participation</b> Involving young people in local projects
Intermediate level	<b>share, exchange</b> exchange between the Y-E-S project partners transnationally
Upper level	<b>Influence policy</b> advocacy work for better involvement of young people



## **Two examples from Granada and Lucca**

### **1) IMFE, Granada/Spain**

The local institute for training and employment of the city of Granada is involved in a local project along with other public, private and non-profit organisations from the Northern District of Granada that work with young people at risk of social exclusion. Their basic interest is to address the lack of motivation of many young people after basic education (age 14/15) and to sensitise and motivate young people in order to involve them in the issues they are facing and to make them search for possible solutions within their individuals training paths after basic education. Therefore there is a big need to get young people involved in the design of training measures.

The project's approach is to develop a forum for young people building on the influence of peer groups and the capacity of youth leaders. Each of the eight involved organisations will organise participative workshops, dynamic sessions where young people analyse their own situation, their social environment and their problems and needs in order to reach conclusions on possible solutions.

The workshops are supported and facilitated by well-known local mediators. It is thought that in the process youth leaders will be identified. These youth leaders should receive special support and training and will be also involved in the transnational Y-E-S project activities. Each workshop will involve 10-20 participants, in total 120-240 participants

<http://www.imfegranada.es/>

<http://www.yes-forum.org/imfe>

### **2) Enaip: Roberto**

Enaip is providing support and training measures for dis-engaged young people and have built together with the city of Lucca and the province of Lucca a project in order to strengthen involvement of young people in the area. It has been acknowledged that there is a lack of involvement of young people on a community level and in community issues a long with an increased right wing movement and conflicts with the gypsy community and minority.

The project is entitled '*squarciagola*' using a web-site with the same name in order to provide young people with an infra-structure and support to announce and organise activities, projects and events. The name of the project can be translated with "shout on top of your voice" in order to promote positive and powerful activities of young people, to help their potential to develop and to make clear that there is no place for racism and discrimination.

<http://www.squarciagola.net/>



***Project Description: Youth – Empowerment – Solutions***

<http://giovani.provincia.lucca.it/>