

collective experience.” It aims to help the young people to reflect on an issue, to start a discussion and in the end to communicate the key messages to decision makers.

The YES Forum is also involved in the organisation of the **third European Youth Convention**, which is set to take place from the **7th to 10th December 2020**.



The GA was also successful in organisational terms. The balance sheet of 2019 was approved as well as the release of the board. Despite challenges and cancellations the financial situation of the Network is stable with a positive outlook into 2021. One of the most important outcomes of the GA was the acceptance of a new member to the Forum. OEJAB, who already organised the TPM and PPM in Vienna in September, has been voted in.

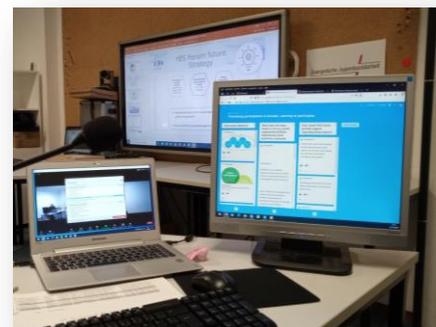
The second day

The second day started with the key note speech of Floor van Houdt, who is the head of the Unit for Youth, Volunteer Solidarity and Traineeship office on Youth policy and Erasmus+. She gave the Assembly an insight into the current developments of EU youth work policy developments and of the core pillars of the policies. The Unit focusses at the moment on shaping the new European programmes starting from 2021 to make them more inclusive, digital and green.

YES Forum future development

After a short introduction given by Annett Wiedermann, Thaís Fernández presented in more detail the future development of our existing “YES Forum strategy 2020”. The YES Forum’s Vision, Mission, Values remain the same. However, the time called for refreshing the text. The new text is based on the activities carried out by the members, described in the last three annual reports, and further developed by the board at the July’s Organisational Retreat.

A new visual representation for the strategy 2020+ was equally developed at the Organisational Retreat. This new model showcases a pyramid that, like the circle, represents the interdependency of the strategic objectives. On the basis, we have the need to “*Strengthen professional approaches in youth work across Europe*”. When this stage is well settled, we can work towards “*Increasing political and social recognition of young people and of the youth work organisations*”. This will later help to “*Improve future prospects of vulnerable young people*” to, finally, “*Boost the participation of underrepresented young people in the democratic decision-making process*”.



Engaging YES Forum members

To further solidify the focus on the future of the YES Forum, but also the youth work sector in general the participants were allocated into breakout rooms, divided by topics that were previously chosen by them. The three areas: Being European, promoting participation in society and the future of the job market are all highly contemporary and thus were broadly discussed in the smaller groups.

The discussion afterwards in the main meeting, led by board member Mirco Trielli, brought forward the issues and developments in each area, as experienced by the organisations. It was a helpful step to further solidate the common ground and shared experience of all.

The padlet links for the topics can be found here:

[Being European: Cultural Meanings and Values](#)

[The Promoting participation in Society: Learning to participate](#)

[The Future of the job market: Perspectives, Opportunities and Policies](#)

Written by Anastasia Wittmann