European Advanced training course ‘Lobbying for Youth Work’: January 2022 – June 2023

12/10/2021 - Actions in EGL



The stronger the people, the stronger the youth policy!
Geert Boutsen (national coach Lobbying for Youth Work)

This event is open for participants of Germany, Latvia, Croatia, Belgian-Flanders and France.

Youth work is more than just pedagogical work with young people. It also implies a political dimension, which needs concrete action. The everyday work of a local youth officer or youth worker is penetrated with political issues. Too often it feels like youth work is the victim of political decisions. On top of this the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on young people and youth work is tangible with sometimes budget cuts in youth work, youth facilities being closed, etc.

At the same time youth work throughout Europe has a unique position in supporting spaces for young people’s voice and autonomy and in building bridges for young people to take, with competence and confidence, the next steps in their lives. Also on European level a dynamic debate around youth work, resulting recently in the adoption of a European Youth Work Agenda, has created a positive political tailwind for youth work, which can also be a stimulus on national and local level.
That’s why it is essential to engage in lobbying for youth work. And to prepare and empower local youth officers and local youth workers to advocate for youth work and to successfully influence, co-shape and position local youth (work) policy. Lobbying is not a game happening in the backrooms of

power, but a competence to master, an attitude to adopt.

Do you agree? Do you want to strengthen your competences to lobby for youth work? And at the same time share with and learn from your colleagues and their youth work context and practice in 5 European countries?

If you say 'YES', then **'Lobbying for Youth Work'** is what you are looking for!

Lobbying for Youth Work in a nutshell

'Lobbying for Youth Work' is a European long-term training course, organised within the framework of the Strategic National Agency Cooperation **'Europe Goes Local: Supporting Youth Work at the Municipal Level'** in Erasmus+ Youth.

The first pilot edition of 'Lobbying for Youth work' (2019-2020) offered a very powerful learning experience to the participants with a clear impact on their local context. That's why, as from January 2022 on, a second edition will be kicked-off, co-ordinated by JINT, the Belgian-Flemish National Agency, in close cooperation with the German, Latvian, Croatian and French National Agency.

Lobbying for Youth work wants

- to sharpen the profile and political position of youth work
- to train and qualify municipal youth officers and local youth workers to analyse political frameworks and situations at the local level so they can influence local youth policy-making through political lobbying
- to encourage the establishment and consolidation of local networks for youth politics (youth policy)
- to create a sustainable training concept at the European level in an attempt to re-politicize youth work/youth policy
- and to explore European impulses for local youth work.

A modular learning journey

> *Successful policy-making in youth work and by the youth work community is comparable to the preparation of a magic cocktail with many different ingredients.*
> *Prof. Werner Lindner (initiator and expert Lobbying for Youth Work)*

'Lobbying for Youth Work' offers you a rich modular learning experience during a journey of more than one year. Together with your colleagues from the 5 participating countries, you will start from and concretely work on your personal 'big ask', i.e. your personal action plan which will be at the core of your own lobby project. This can be a need in your local community that you want to tackle, a project you want to push forward, an ambition you want to realise, …

The entire learning process is built around the following focal pillars and will be inspired by several experts from different European countries:

- Mapping and analysis of the (local) policy field
- Development of targets
- Analysis and development of (local) networks
- Development of action plans

- Political communication

The project consists of different modules in order to support your hard, but rewarding work on your big asks:

- 3 international residential modules:
  - Module 1: 7 to 10 February 2022 in Belgium
  - Module 2: 23-25 May 2022 in Latvia
  - Module 3: dates to be decided, in France
- 2 to 3 in-between webinars (each of 2 to 3 hours) to deepen insights from the international modules
- personal coaching and national group support during the whole project by a national coach

Profile of participants

'Lobbying for Youth Work' targets 20 to 24 participants with 4-5 participants for each country (Belgium-Flanders, Croatia, France, Germany and Latvia).

We are looking for participants who:

- are municipal youth officers and/or local youth workers with a concrete, long-term ambition to change their local context and with an understanding of the structures, values and current challenges of local youth work
- are committed and strongly motivated to actively and fully participate in all the different programme parts (ie. modules, webinars, coaching) of this training and to develop personal and professional skills
- can confirm that they will be able to work on their big ask and get the support they need to do so
  are able to work in English (without being perfect).

We expect that always the same participants attend the activities, as this is crucial for the learning process and the connection between the modules.

Costs

This training course is supported by the Erasmus+ Youth programme. All travel and hosting costs are covered. You can be asked to pay a small participation fee depending on your country of origin. Please contact your National Agency to know if they ask for a participation fee.

Covid-19 measures

The three international modules are planned to be residentially hosted. In case the COVID-19 situation prevails and prevents travelling, the organiser reserves the right to cancel the residential activity and organise the activity online.

All selected participants will need to follow the travel regulations valid by the time of the activity (e.g. be able to show the European digital corona certificate when leaving their home country and entering the hosting country). More detailed information about the travel guidelines will be provided to the selected participants closer to the event.

The organisers will ensure that safety and hygienic measures needed in relation to Covid-19 are in place during the activity, following all national health and safety guidelines of the hosting country which are valid by the time of the activity. All participants will be accommodated in single rooms.

More info?

If you want to know more about Lobbying for Youth Work, please read:

- two motivating testimonies of participants in Lobbying for Youth Work 2019-2020: 'How lobbying saved my career' by Evy Huybrechts (Belgium-Flanders) on page 44 and 'How international youth work in Tyrol can be developed and professionalised' by Kadri Villem and Martina Steiner (Austria) on page 47
- an interview with Geert Boutsen, national coach of the Belgian delegation in Lobbying for Youth Work

For more information please contact the National Agency for the Erasmus+ Youth programme in your country:

- National Agency Germany: Claudius Siebel – siebel@jfemail.de
- National Agency Latvia: Nils Mosejonoks – nils.mosejonoks@jaunatne.gov.lv
- National Agency Croatia: Aleksandra Svast – aleksandra.svast@mobilnost.hr
- National Agency France: Anne Roland – anne.rolland@service-civique.gouv.fr
- National Agency Belgium-Flanders: Inez Adriaensen – inez.adriaensen@jint.be

Do you want to join?

Please **apply** through the following SALTO link at the latest by **29 November 2021.**