

# The role of national associations in supporting local youth work organisations and municipalities to provide quality youth work

## **Name of the organisation**

Hellenic Youth Workers Association

## **Website of the organisation**

[www.youthwork.gr](http://www.youthwork.gr)

## **Location of the organisation**

Gravias 9-13, 10678 Athens, Greece

## **E-mail address of the organisation**

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## **Good practice aspect(s)/themes of youth work**

- Lobbying/advocacy for youth work
- European/International cooperation/projects
- Participation of young people in decision making
- Youth information and counselling

## **Good practice category**

A practice of processes and methods

## **Good practice aim & purpose**

The primary aim of this good practice is to create a cohesive and efficient network that amplifies the impact of youth work initiatives across a country or Europe. National associations play an important role in advocating for youth issues at the municipal level, securing funding, and helping municipalities understand the importance of investing in youth development. Firstly, the practice seeks to foster a collaborative environment where national associations catalyse knowledge exchange, resource sharing, and best practice dissemination among local youth work entities. This approach ensures that grassroots organizations benefit from the experiences of their peers, ultimately elevating the quality of their services.

Secondly, the practice aspires to bridge the gap between municipalities and youth work organizations by facilitating constructive dialogue and partnerships.

By following this practice, participants can learn how to establish connections between national and local stakeholders, fostering a united front for youth empowerment. This collaborative approach not only enhances the effectiveness of youth work but hopefully serves as a source of inspiration.

Ultimately, the practice aims to present the Alliance of Youth Workers Associations efforts towards supporting national associations in their work supporting youth work at local level.

## Good practice description

In this good practice, we would like to showcase the role that national associations of youth workers can play in enhancing the quality of youth work through collaborative efforts with local youth work organizations and municipalities.

The main outcomes of this practice include:

1. **Knowledge Sharing:** National associations can and should create platforms or networks where local youth work organizations and municipalities can come together. This can be in the form of regular meetings, workshops, or online forums. This collaborative environment leads to improved program design and delivery, ultimately benefiting young people. Moreover, through training programs and workshops, national associations empower individuals within local organizations with the skills and knowledge to deliver high-quality youth work. We would like to present the partnership of Youth Workers Associations effort to develop a MOOC where all the above are planned to be discovered so to encourage national associations to be created and to facilitate the sharing of resources among local organizations and municipalities.
2. **Advocacy and Funding Support:** National associations actively engage with municipalities and government bodies, advocating for increased investment in youth development. This support streamlines funding processes for local organizations, ensuring they receive the necessary financial backing.
3. **Research and Evaluation:** National associations research to evaluate the impact of youth work. The findings provide evidence-based insights that inform program improvements and contribute to the overall effectiveness of youth services.

In summary, this good practice underscores the importance of collaboration, resource sharing, advocacy, capacity building, research, youth involvement, and the dissemination of success stories to strengthen youth work. It serves as a valuable blueprint for readers/participants seeking to enhance youth development in their respective regions, and cities and ultimately empower young people to thrive wherever they are coming from.

## Good practice result & concrete effects

The implementation of the best practice involving national associations supporting local youth work organisations and municipalities has concrete and transformative effects:

Firstly, the quality of youth work programs can be seen as substantially enhanced through collaborative knowledge -resource sharing, and cooperation. Local organizations can benefit from a rich tapestry of insights and resources, leading to more effective services for young people in the local level by supporting as well municipalities to expand their knowledge at European level.

Secondly, advocacy efforts undertaken by national associations will result in increased funding and support from municipalities and government entities. This financial boost will allow local organisations to broaden their outreach and impact within their communities. Moreover, capacity-building initiatives will empower youth workers within local organisations and municipal officers in the youth sector, equipping them with valuable skills and expertise. This can be translated into more confident and proficient professionals delivering youth services and supporting young people in their community. In conclusion, the tangible outcomes of this practice encompass improved youth work quality, increased cooperation, empowered youth workers, data-driven decision-making and a growing community of organizations embracing youth work principles with the support of National Associations.

## **Good practice chapter of the European Charter on Local Youth Work**

Youth work policy