



## European Conference on Local Youth Work and Democracy

20.2.-23.2.2024

Brussels

Agenda

### Tuesday, February 20th (BEL Brussels)

	Arrival of participants at the hotels
12:00 – 14:00	Optional guided tours in Brussels
15:00	Departure to BEL of all participants from the hotels
16:00 – 17.00	Registration at BEL/ welcome coffee /Atrium/
17:00-18:30	Opening ( <i>Live streamed</i> ) /Auditorium/ Opening speech by <b>Benjamin Dalle</b> , Flemish Minister of Brussels, Youth, Media and Poverty Reduction Opening video message by <b>Iliana Ivanova</b> , EU Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth Opening speech by <b>Matjaž Gruden</b> Director for Democracy at the Council of Europe Opening speech by <b>Rares Voicu</b> , Board member of the European Youth Forum Opening speech by <b>Spyros Papadatos</b> , Chairperson of the Advisory Council on Youth
	'Youth work in contemporary Europe', keynote by <b>Howard Williamson</b> , Professor of European Youth Policy University of South Wales
	Panel discussion: Local youth work and participation in the context of policy and practice, by the directors of Erasmus+ youth National Agencies of Belgium - <b>Koen Lambert</b> , Director of JINT vzw; <b>Laurence Hermand</b> – Director of BIJ; <b>Margret Zeiner</b> - Director of Jugendbüro
	Youth work, participation through the eyes of young people - story-telling by young activists
18:30-19:00	Informal networking – getting to know each other /Atrium/
19:00 – 21:00	<i>Walking Dinner at Bel /Atrium/</i>



### Wednesday, February 21<sup>st</sup> (The EGG Brussels)

09:30-11:00

Setting the scene /Auditorium/

Introduction of the rationale and method of the event by **Geert Boutsen** and **Guy Redig**

Youth work in the local context – examples of diverse realities and practices: **Fatima Laabab** (Youth worker at Formaat vzw), **Olga Kiriakidou** (President of the Hellenic Youth Workers Association | Kids in Action) **Katarina Gorenc** (Head of Youth Office at City of Ljubljana); **Oksana Malchenko**, Chairperson of the Regional Public Organization "Equal Opportunities Space" (Sumy region) - *(Live streamed)*

11:00 – 11:30

Introduction to the agenda of the event and to the digital conference tool

*Coffee break /Riverside/*

11:30 – 13:00

Parallel workshops with inspiring inputs of good practices and guided discussion

#### 1.1 Youth work as a continuum /Production Room 1/:

##### Vienna Children and Youth Strategy

The Vienna Children and Youth Strategy is the city's inaugural interdepartmental initiative focused on improving the lives of children and young people. It underscores a commitment to long-term youth participation, with ongoing implementation involving various stakeholders in youth work and administration since its inception.

##### ➤ **Nada Taha Ali Mohamed**

##### [The cado: a teen den where perform our rights](#)

The CADO provides a space for teens to engage in decision-making and project development, aiming to address socio-political disaffection. Supported by the "Jóvenes Dinamizadores Rurales" network, it empowers teens to actively shape their community.

##### ➤ **Luis Soravilla**

#### 2.1 Youth work as a promoter of play /Production Room 2/:

##### Creating a framework to guide children and youth work – a complexity perspective

This workshop addresses the necessity of a complexity perspective in guiding children and youth work, emphasizing its relevance for stakeholders like youth workers, policymakers, and community members. The presenter shares insights from their ongoing work on creating a complexity framework for play, suggesting its potential application to inform policies and practices in youth work.

##### ➤ **Sabine Vincon**

[Actieplan Mee\(r\) naar buiten](#)



This action plan aims to provide a response to that and map what already exists, what works, where there are blind spots and how we can strengthen matters. The plan is built on what Sven De Visscher wrote in 'The socio-pedagogical significance of the residential environment': how are children able (the living environment as actual, material space), allowed (the limits placed on presence) and willing (actorship in public space) to be present in their living environment. It aims to bring together, inspire and encourage children and young people and enable them to spend more and better time outdoors, realising more play and meeting opportunities because they are willing, able and allowed to do so.

➤ **Benedicte Roose**

### **3.1 Frameworks for local youth work /Loge 1/:**

#### Lobbying for Youth Work makes a difference

This workshop emphasizes the crucial role of lobbying in advancing youth work at local levels, showcasing the impact of Erasmus+ Youth's 'Lobbying for Youth Work' training in empowering participants to shape and influence youth policies effectively.

➤ **Inez Adriaensen; Isabelle Rombauts; Claudius Siebel**

### **4.1 Frameworks for knowledge-based youth work /Loge 2/:**

#### The Logobook - SE

The Logbook emphasizes the need for practical knowledge in youth work, beyond theoretical tools, focusing on assessing effectiveness, youth engagement, and learning experiences. The Logbook is presented as a tool for gathering crucial information in knowledge-based youth work.

➤ **Jenny Haglund**

#### NAPOR - quality assurance of youth work – RS

NAPOR sets 8 youth work standards, using an accreditation process for continuous improvement. Organizations receive a certificate, affirming their commitment to quality, recognized by members and supported by the Ministry of Youth and Sports. NAPOR actively promotes accreditation for enhanced youth work quality.

➤ **Jelena Stojanović**

### **5.1 The role of local youth work in enhancing inclusivity /Press Room/:**

#### Development of boys in the suburb - SE

Kooperativet Fjället's workshop in a Gothenburg suburb focuses on promoting boys' social development through initiatives like "Guydinner #Killmiddag" and the "Guy group," resulting in improved relationships, reduced stereotypical masculinity, and increased gender balance.

➤ **Sara Lesch; Nour Ataia**

#### Let's meet in the square! – Budapest, district VIII. - Hu

Discover 'Let's Meet at the Square,' Budapest's innovative child-participatory initiative, fostering play, connections, and skill development for children and youth every week. Join us to explore impactful initiatives shaping youth work and democracy in Hungary!



➤ **Fanni Mátyók**

### **6.1 Participatory culture and environment in the local community /Cinéma Room/:**

#### Democracy Reloading – Toolkit

The Democracy Reloading Partnership, supported by Erasmus+, assists local authorities in enhancing youth participation in municipal decisions. The workshop introduces a Competence Reference Framework and practical tools for local use, with plans for ongoing learning in 2024-25, benefiting municipal youth officers, workers, and young people.

➤ **Laszlo Foldi**

#### Almada - PT

The Municipal Youth Assembly of Almada involves students aged 14-18 in discussing themes like climate change and democratic participation. They propose and vote on recommendations for local action, such as establishing school assemblies. The assembly aims to promote youth engagement and address European values in a local context.

➤ **Vânia G. Cruz**

### **7.1 Sustainable, frameworks for meaningful local participation /Riverside 1/:**

#### Youth budget sint-niklaas (jongerenbegroting)

Sint-Niklaas, a youth-friendly city in East Flanders, conducts an annual Youth Budget since 2021, where randomly selected young people decide on allocating a 20,000 euro budget to address priorities impacting their living environment. This initiative aims to incorporate the voices of children and young people across various policy domains affecting their living environment.

➤ **Laura Van de Vyver**

#### Helsinki Youth Budget – Participatory Budgeting with Youth - FI

The Helsinki Youth Budget involves over 10,000 young people aged 12 to 17 in participatory budgeting, fostering their engagement in planning services and activities. It aims to enhance democracy education and create meaningful interactions between youth and the city, maintaining a low-threshold approach over the past decade.

➤ **Ella Tanskanen**

### **8.1 The role of youth work in promoting critical thinking and active citizenship /Riverside 2/:**

#### Building Communities brick by brick - IT

The "Building Communities brick by brick" workshop promotes dialogue and active citizenship through creative brick-based activities, fostering collaboration between young people and policymakers. With over 50 sessions involving 500+ participants, the workshop has produced an active citizenship manifesto.

➤ **Ilaria Zocco**

#### Jong Lokaal Kabaal - Hamont Achel, Zoersel and Beersel

"Jong Lokaal Kabaal" fosters sustainable dialogue among young people and policymakers in three cities, leading to youth-driven local sustainability actions like 'Thursday = Veggie Day' and a climate



week. The project aims to influence municipal sustainability policies by amplifying the voices of young participants.

➤ **Fien Morren**

### 9.1 Roles and needs of municipalities /Riverside 3/:

#### [City for Youth - HR](#)

The City for Youth certificate evaluates local youth policies based on 81 criteria across eight thematic areas. Cities meeting at least 50% of the criteria can obtain the label, valid for three years, promoting continuous improvement. The tool is accessible to youth councils and organizations for advocating specific initiatives at the local level.

➤ **Mario Žuliček**

#### [Certificate Youth Friendly Municipality - SI](#)

The Youth Friendly Municipality certificate in Slovenia, held by 47 municipalities, recognizes comprehensive youth policies emphasizing participation and addressing various priorities, aiming to enhance young people's quality of life and foster inclusivity.

➤ **Tadej Kobal**

### 10.1 The relation between youth and public space /Riverside 4/:

#### [QJ: a new headquarter for young people in Paris - FR](#)

"Quartier Jeunes" in Paris, created post-COVID by the Mayor, is a hub for young people addressing unemployment and mental health in a historic building. With over 57,000 visitors in 2022, the project showcases innovative work processes and potential expansion.

➤ **Thomas Rogé**

#### [Network of Youth Centres Ljubljana - SI](#)

The Network of Youth Centres in Ljubljana collaborates with various entities to offer diverse youth programs. Utilizing Logbook for impact monitoring, the network facilitated over 16,000 activities and 160,000 visits in 2022, supporting youth and fostering community innovation.

➤ **Katarina Gorenc**

13:00 - 14:30 *Lunch /Riverside/*

14:30-16:30 Parallel workshops with inspiring inputs of good practices and guided discussion

### 1.2 Youth work as a continuum /Production Room 1/:

#### [Strategy child friendly city - Zwijndrecht and the Belgian model of child-friendly cities \(BE-FL\)](#)

Zwijndrecht's child-friendly city strategy involves surveys, in-depth research, and collaboration with stakeholders to engage youth in decision-making. The goal is to offer opportunities for youth growth, fostering collaboration between residents, youth work, and municipal services, earning Zwijndrecht recognition as a child-friendly city.



The workshop introduces Flanders' certification for "Child Friendly Cities," emphasizing the integration of children's rights into local policy through a three-step toolkit. Certification lasts six years and involves meeting criteria such as engaging children and stakeholders in policy-making. Bataljong oversees toolkit adaptation and serves as an ongoing ambassador for the initiative.

➤ **Mieke Hulin; Tieme Verlinde**

[How to transform heritage in cities and villages to future youth places \(BE-FL\)](#)

"Bamm! bridges art/heritage and youth dialogue, expanding internationally. From Flanders to remote European regions, we offer insights on engaging youth in heritage, emphasizing dialogue for new perspectives."

➤ **Stefaan Vandecaleuze**

['Kinderfreundliche Kommunen' – An impact analysis on the changes in child-friendliness in German municipalities \(DE\)](#)

The 'Kinderfreundliche Kommunen' initiative has been enhancing child-friendliness in German municipalities for over a decade. An impact analysis showcased significant progress in prioritizing children's rights, fostering youth participation, and creating child-friendly environments.

➤ **Anne Müller**

## 2.2 Youth work as a promoter of play /Production Room 2/:

[The role of playing the methodology of the youth movements in Belgium - BE-FL](#)

➤ **Marij Germijns**

[Children's participation in designing a playspace in the community](#)

The workshop stresses children's role in designing community playspaces, aligning with their rights to play and contribute to local communities. Studies demonstrate the importance of involving children in the process, presenting challenges and opportunities for policymakers in fostering inclusive urban policies.

➤ **Rianne Jansens**

## 3.2 Frameworks for local youth work /Loge 1/:

[Mobile Youth Center in Toila Municipality - EE](#)

To address the accessibility gap in youth services, young people and design students created a 3D model for a mobile youth center. The operational sea container, initiated in June 2023, moves to different areas during the summer, providing a safe and social space for young people aged 7-26. The project has successfully increased diversity in youth services, engaged 191 youths, and garnered national attention.

➤ **Elizaveta Shilman**

[Youth Center Probishtip - MK](#)



The Youth Center in Probishtip empowers local youth with a focus on active citizenship, resulting from the "My Space" project. Managed by GRIT, it engages youth, offers diverse services, and actively involves them in decision-making processes, contributing to community development.

➤ **Martina Jachevska**

[Development of a youth center management model - HR](#)

The "Youth Center Management Model" engaged young people, civil society, and decision-makers to create a participatory governance model for a future youth center in Šibenik. Through focus groups and a questionnaire, participants directly influenced the center's management, culminating in a finalized document for the planned 2024/5 construction.

➤ **Matej Matić**

#### **4.2 Frameworks for knowledge-based youth work /Loge 2/:**

[Rural youth – implementing multicultural youth work in rural Finland through ESC volunteering - FI](#)

This youth work initiative promotes intercultural understanding and volunteering in rural areas through cross-sectorial cooperation. By hosting European Solidarity Corps (ESC) volunteers, the project positively influences local youth attitudes, fostering intercultural awareness and language skills, while also providing valuable support to the city's services.

➤ **Adrian Bonnet**

[Regional Youth Network Meetjesman – BE-FL](#)

The Regional Youth Network Meetjesman in East-Flanders collaborates to strengthen youth policies in rural Meetjesland. Through training, support for policymakers, and in-house consultancy, the network aims to create a better environment for children and youth in the region.

➤ **Pieter-Jan Teirlinck**

An example of regional youth work in rural areas: more dialogue, new approaches, strong cooperation

In East Belgium, the "4YOU(TH)" initiative, focusing on meeting places, youth representation, outreach work, and more, has successfully implemented regional mobile and open youth work over the past year, achieving positive local and regional impact.

➤ **Robert Wiesemes**

#### **5.2 The role of local youth work in enhancing inclusivity /Press Room/:**

[Filming in the Dark - CZ](#)

Osvěta Association's "Filming in the Dark" initiative offers visually impaired youth accessible film training through interactive workshops and an AI-assisted camera, promoting inclusion and creating audiovisual content for a marginalized group.

➤ **Pavel Ruzyak**

[Stronger together! - LV](#)



"Stronger together" emphasizes inclusion, diversity, and recognition of learning for vulnerable children and youth in health care institutions. The initiative uses creative tools to enhance personal and professional development, addressing social disparities and promoting cross-sectoral cooperation. It contributes to building an inclusive society and fostering voluntary work in Latvia.

➤ **Sintija Bernava**

## 6.2 Participatory culture and environment in the local community /*Cinéma Room*/:

### [Youth Leader and Youth Board - FI](#)

The Youth Leader initiative empowers rural youth by providing project funds directly to them, promoting their involvement in decision-making and addressing local challenges. Rita Kovacs will explain the initiative's process and adaptability for use in different rural areas, municipalities, or NGOs.

➤ **Rita Kovacs**

### [Alles Kan - Ghent](#)

Alles Kan is a Ghent-based grant encouraging individuals aged 14 to 30 to organize projects for their peers, fostering entrepreneurship and creativity. It provides financial support and coaching, resulting in skill development and the stimulation of experimentation in the city's creative and cultural sectors.

➤ **Jeroen Paeleman**

### [Take the money and do something for youth - HR](#)

"Take the Money and Do Something for Youth" is a participatory budgeting project in Pregrada, Croatia, where young people propose and vote on community projects. Through workshops and campaigns, the winning project receives 3000 euros for implementation, fostering youth engagement and efficient use of public funds since 2019.

➤ **Nikolina Šoštarić Tkalec**

## 7.2 Sustainable, frameworks for meaningful local participation /*Riverside 1*/:

### [Youth co-design Cities of Learning - LT - DE](#)

"Youth co-design Cities of Learning" engaged 600+ young people in 8 countries, empowering over 120 youth leaders to shape policy recommendations on non-formal learning, sustainability, inclusion, participation, and mental health for policy reforms and youth empowerment.

➤ **Johannes Bergunder**

### [J100 - Antwerp](#)

J100 in Antwerp empowers young people aged 16-30 through dialogue, collaboration, and nomadic activities across neighborhoods, fostering inclusivity and amplifying diverse voices. The youth-led initiative focuses on skill development, societal discussions, and active participation.

➤ **Filip Balthau; Omar Bouiraamane**

## 8.2 The role of youth work in promoting critical thinking and active citizenship /*Riverside 2*/:





#### [Points Communs - IT](#)

"Points Communs" is an Erasmus Plus project fostering youth participation in Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes and Lombardy. It involves Eurodesk centers in Lyon and Sarezzo, engaging 30 participants in each event to enhance youth information and democratic engagement.

- **Gloria Lombardo; Duran Mirya**

#### [Political Outreach to Youth : Enlightening Youth on Politics in a Comprehensible and Accessible Manner](#)

This workshop highlights engaging youth in politics, offering innovative strategies and insights from a voting aid app to make political information accessible. It aims to bridge the gap between youth and politics, promoting informed and active participation in democracy.

- **Laura Uyttendaele**

### **9.2 Roles and needs of municipalities /Riverside 3/:**

#### [Youth Capitals – how does the title impact the municipality?](#)

The European Youth Capital project promotes youth engagement in decision-making. Representatives from Tirana, Lublin, Ghent, and Lviv will discuss their experiences with the EYC title in a 90-minute session, emphasizing its impact and legacy on community development.

Tirana pursued the European Youth Capital (EYC) title to empower youth through diverse programs, involving strategic planning and infrastructure improvements. Hosting the EYC boosted the city's economy, enhanced civic engagement, and left a legacy of sustainable initiatives and international partnerships.

- **Ivan Neirotti; Mariia Pihura (Lviv); Céline De Coninck (Ghent); Agnieszka Parol-Górna (Lublin); Dafina Peci (Tirana)**

### **10.2 The relation between youth and public space /Riverside 4/:**

#### [Girls make the city](#)

"GIRLS MAKE THE CITY" involves 25 young people in gender-sensitive urban planning at a Brussels skate park, generating nine proposals to reclaim public space. The project expands to Molenbeek in 2023 with "Girls Play The City," addressing the needs of girls for exercising in a gender-inclusive public space.

- **Julie Van Garsse**

#### [Young service designers - IT -](#)

The Young Service Designers (YSD) project involves 18 youth workers and 120 young people from six EU countries in civic education and service design for local decision-making. Outcomes include 10 co-designed pilot services and a toolkit for youth policy development.

- **Carlotta Figini**

#### [Youth in Urban Space: Building Young People's Identity](#)



The "Youth in Urban Space" project studied changes in how young people use public spaces, emphasizing their importance for identity formation and the need for gender-specific approaches in youth work. It also stressed the significance of long-term resources and local partnerships for effective interventions.

➤ **Werner Prinzjakowitsch**

16:30-17:00	<i>Coffee break /Riverside/</i>
17:00-18:00	Thematic reflection groups <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Youth work and participation from childhood /Production Room 1/</li><li>2. Quality local youth work /Production Room 2/</li><li>3. Reach out and inclusive youth work /Loge 1/</li><li>4. Participatory environments and spaces to participate /Loge 2/</li><li>5. Information, critical thinking and active citizenship /Press Room/</li><li>6. Roles and needs of municipalities /Cinéma Room/</li></ol>
18:00-19:00	Informal networking /Riverside/
19:00-20:00	<i>Dinner: Walking dinner at the EGG /Riverside/</i>
20.00-22.00	Cultural programme: Nuff Said <a href="https://nuffsaid.be/">https://nuffsaid.be/</a> /Auditorium/



**Thursday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> (The EGG Brussels)**

09:30-11:00

Plenary debates – How does Europe support local youth work and participation? – three parallel sessions (Speakers are still to be confirmed):

**YOUTH WORK** / Auditorium/ *(live streamed)*

**1. Play and playfulness, youthwork from childhood, child-friendly cities**

Child in the City Foundation (**Hans Migchielsen** - Chairman);

EuroChild (**Ally Dunhill** - Director of Policy, Advocacy and Communications);

UNICEF Child Friendly Cities Initiative (**Mona Meienberg** - Head of Child Friendly Community & City Development)

P4Play project - Cork Child Friendly Cities (**Katherine Harford** – Executive Director, Let's Grow Together! Infant & Childhood Partnerships and Chair of Cork Child Friendly City Forum)

**2. Policies, strategies and frameworks for youth work**

EU-CoE youth partnership (**Tanya Basarab** - Research and Youth Policy Officer)

KEKS (**Jonas Agdur** - Senior advisor)

European Commission Youth Unit (**Babis Papaioannou** - Policy Officer)

Strategic National Agency Cooperation on the European Youth Work Agenda (**Elke Führer** - Specialist for the European Youth Work Agenda)

**PARTICIPATION** / Studio/ *(recorded)*

**3. Information, (youth) media, and information literacy**

Eurodesk (**Audrey Frith** – Director)

EYCA (**Manel Sanchez Garcia** – Director)

Stampmedia (**Anouk Torbeyns** - Editorial and youth supervisor)

Mediawijs - Flemish Knowledge centre on Digital and Media literacy (**Andy Demeulenaere** – Coordinator)

**4. How does Europe support participation and active citizenship?**

ERYICA (**Eva Reina** – Director)

DYPALL – (**Aleksandra Maldžiski** - Deputy Director)

SALTO PI – (**Brigita Medne** - Youth Participation Coordinator)

Youth dialogue (**Ondrej Barta** – researcher)



## MUNICIPAL POLICIES /Riverside/ (recorded)

### 5. The role of municipalities in providing quality youth work and ensuring meaningful participation of young people

Lviv - the European youth capital 2025 – **Mariia Pihura**

Paris - **Thomas Rogé**

Vila Nova de Famalicão - **Sandra Manuela Silva**

Kristiansand - **Ole Martin Kyllø**

Vienna - **Nada Taha Ali Mohamed**

### 6. What does Europe offer to municipalities in the field of youth?

The European Committee of the Regions – (**Stephen De Ron** - Member of Hesperange Municipal Council)

CoE Congress of Local and Regional Authorities (**Veronique Bertholle** - deputy thematic spokesperson on Youth)

ALDA (**Andrea Rilievo** - member of our Governing Board)

European Youth Forum - (**Rareş Voicu** - board member)

Youth Initiative Centre Gyumri- (**Artur Najaryan** – president)

11:00 – 11:30 *Coffee break /Riverside/*

11:30 – 13:00 Parallel workshops with inspiring inputs of good practices and guided discussion

#### 1.3 Youth work as a continuum: / Production Room 1/

[Platform C: Platform Citizenship: Platform design for a child participatory decision-making culture in Flanders in times of crisis.](#)

Platform C in Flanders is a research project fostering a cultural shift among policymakers for increased child and youth participation in policy issues. Through participatory platforms designed with an ecosystemic approach, the workshop explains the project's approach, shares initial results, and illustrates child and youth involvement during the COVID period as a case study in crisis participation.

➤ **Emily Mortier**

#### 2.3 Youth work as a promoter of play: / Production Room 2/

[Playing 'a la carte' in an open system to play - Speelplein - BE](#)

For the VDS, “playing” is not the same as “playing at a playground”. For the latter, there is a concrete idea of how this “playing at a playground” should be organised. The playing system that, within a



vacation context, offers the best playing possibilities in our view is a strong 'open system of playing'. The concept is based on choice and variation.

➤ **Arno Beeckman, Simon Knaeps**

[Intergenerational play in public spaces and social wellbeing](#)

The play "Intergenerational Play in Urban Public Spaces and Social Well-being" emphasizes the transformative power of play for all ages, fostering new experiences and social relationships in public spaces. Through a scoping review, the play explores how intergenerational play positively influences social well-being, contributing to urban design research for more inclusive and child-friendly cities.

➤ **Aysenur Bas**

### **3.3 Frameworks for local youth work: / Loge 1/**

[Youth Work/Ers Matter! - GE](#)

This workshop highlights innovative practices from three Georgian youth centers, showcasing a grassroots youth work program developed through non-formal education. Implemented by Umbrella with support from the European Youth Foundation, the project benefited over 100 local young people.

➤ **Medea Pavliashvili**

[StreetSmart Game-Changing Tools for Youth Workers](#)

StreetSmart equips global youth workers with tools like StreetSmart Play and StreetSmart Learn, fostering engagement and empowerment among vulnerable youth. With over 5000 users, their impact spans various educational activities worldwide.

➤ **Lies De Vocht**

### **4.3 Frameworks for knowledge-based youth work: / Loge 2/**

[The European Charter on Local Youth Work and the Changemakers Kit](#)

Europe Goes Local's European Charter on Local Youth Work sets quality standards for youth activities, emphasizing municipal cooperation, European integration, and stakeholder involvement. The accompanying Changemakers kit offers practical tools and examples for implementing the charter at all levels.

➤ **Gil Nunes, Marie Falk, Eliza Bujalska**

### **5.3 The role of local youth work in enhancing inclusivity: /Press Room/**

[How Detached Youth Work Can Make a Difference: The Birzebbuga Case Study - MT](#)

Detached youth work in Birzebbuga, led by Aġenzija Żgħażaġh, resulted in the creation of a skatepark through collaboration with the Local Council and Malta Trust Foundation. The skatepark has positively impacted young people's lives, providing a sense of community, empowerment, and improved communication with local authorities.

➤ **Simon Schembri**



#### [Betonne Jeugd - Antwerp](#)

Betonne Jeugd vzw empowers young people in poverty, offering a safe space and actively challenging societal structures. The impact includes personal empowerment, improved mental health, and societal benefits such as higher education and employment chances, reduced street loitering, and policy advocacy against homelessness.

➤ **Sarah Lampen**

#### **6.3 Participatory culture and environment in the local community: /Cinéma Room/**

##### [Training on participatory democracy for civil servants in Belgium](#)

This research investigates the compatibility of participatory democracy with public officials' practices, highlighting challenges in decision-making despite the proliferation of participatory mechanisms. It offers practical insights for innovation managers in promoting citizen participation within public administrations.

➤ **Jehan Bottin**

##### [Youth participation in youth work recognition and development projects – The resource group model - NO](#)

Youth Work Norway's resource group model empowers youth in decision-making, fostering collaborative projects that address local needs and enhance participants' skills and motivation.

➤ **André Ruud**

#### **7.3 Sustainable, frameworks for meaningful local participation: /Riverside 1/**

##### [Local Collective – NL](#)

The Local Collective project, led by the National Youth Council of the Netherlands, connects 85 local youth councils to promote sustainable youth participation in local decision-making through various activities like training, workshops, and events, aiming to amplify young voices, boost their engagement in governance, and nurture their personal growth.

➤ **Bram Geurds**

##### [What comes first, system or attitude? - Youth council - Kristiansand – NO](#)

In Kristiansand, Norway, the municipal youth council, aged 13 to 19, actively influences decision-making. This workshop explores the balance between cultivating a positive attitude towards youth and implementing effective systems for their input, questioning which comes first in fostering a supportive environment for youth engagement.

➤ **Ole Martin Kylo**

#### **8.3 The role of youth work in promoting critical thinking and active citizenship: /Riverside 2/**

##### [Academy for Young Leaders in Civil Society - BA](#)



The Academy for Young Leaders in Civil Society empowers Bosnian youth through a comprehensive program focused on critical thinking and active citizenship. By bridging gaps in formal education, fostering reconciliation, and promoting hands-on projects, the Academy cultivates a diverse network of leaders driving positive change in their communities.

➤ **Aida Becirovic**

[To make strategy, takes strategy - EE](#)

The project aimed to empower young people in decision-making by teaching them proposal expression and fostering dialogue with decision-makers. Successful outcomes included increased confidence, established connections, international cooperation offers, and plans for follow-up activities, positively impacting both the youth and the community.

➤ **Endla Mitt**

### **9.3 Roles and needs of municipalities: / Riverside 3/**

CRECCIDE asbl: support for municipalities in the implementation and monitoring of local children and youth councils

CRECCIDE supports municipalities in establishing local children and youth councils, educating them on democratic principles, rights, and environmental issues. The organization aims to empower young citizens to actively participate in civic life through continuous training and thematic workshops.

➤ **Evelyne Waonry**

[Komaf- Where leisure is connected to inclusion and diversity](#)

The "Komaf" project in Flanders aims to enhance youth participation by addressing inclusion and diversity barriers. Through an online platform and discounted training, it connects local youth workers, organizations, and governments to foster inclusivity in youth initiatives, promoting engagement among children and youngsters.

➤ **Marte Ingels**

### **10.3 The relation between youth and public space: / Riverside 4/**

The Participation of Young People in Decision-making: 3-dimensional Approach (Policy-making, Theory, and Practice)

This workshop focuses on the invisibility of young people in decision-making and advocates for a 3-dimensional approach that combines policy-making, theory, and practice. It aims to explore a pathway for mainstreaming youth participation, offering guidelines for adults based on change theory.

➤ **Özlemnur Ataol**

Children's Participation for developing a Play-friendly community: A matter of Rights, Voices, and Transformations



This project showcases a real example of children's participation for creating a better place to play in a deprived community. Children were co-researchers, taking decisions about the different stages. Children decided to create a puppet show and two songs (playful, creative and art-based methods) and we wrote collaboratively a report to advocate for their right to play. Children engaged with policy-makers and stakeholders in community events and are planning to discuss their issues at the Scottish Parliament.

➤ **Silvia Veiga-Seijo**

13:00 - 14:30                      *Lunch /River side/*  
14:30-18:00                      Field visits hosted by NGOS in Brussels

1. [Co-creation: Artistic Creation with Children and Young People](#)

BRONKS engages youth in co-creative projects, fostering creativity and collaboration. Participants develop skills, embrace diversity, and contribute to the community. The "You(-th) Take Over" initiative empowers youth to influence BRONKS' operations.

➤ **BRONKS theater**

2. [BabbelART](#)

BabbelArt is a versatile tool for engaging young people in discussions about art and culture, fostering creativity and planning cultural festivals. It provides insight into participants' interests and talents, facilitating the start of cultural programs and festivals.

➤ **Lasso vzw**

3. [The city operation in Brussels](#)

Chiro Youth Flanders supports urban Chiro groups in Brussels to promote social cohesion and diversity among youth, addressing challenges like leadership shortages and resource limitations while fostering community engagement and adapting to evolving needs.

➤ **Chirojeugd Vlaanderen**

4. [Public Speaking](#)

Felobel aims to empower youth through public speaking training, fostering confidence and effective communication for active citizenship. Their methodology emphasizes practice and feedback, leading to improved skills and self-expression. The initiative also builds a network of organizations nationally and internationally to share best practices in public speaking education.

➤ **Felobel**





#### 5. [urban leadership](#)

JES supports urban youth leadership by providing tools and platforms for their initiatives, empowering them to make a positive impact in their communities. Through competency-based training and visibility efforts, JES enhances the credibility and reach of young leaders, facilitating access to resources and support.

➤ **JES vzw**

#### 6. [YouthShot - Why Large-Scale Change is needed to solve the Most Pressing Social Issues](#)

Youthshot fosters collaborative problem-solving for urban youth issues through co-creation with diverse sectors. Their initiative CAPITAL, launched in 2020, engages over 13,000 youths and collaborates with 20 companies and three governments to address challenges like youth unemployment, resulting in increased reach and collaboration.

➤ **CAPITAL vzw**

#### 7. [Stimulating, enriching and enhancing youth participation with the Certificate of Civic Engagement](#)

The Certificate of Civic Engagement (CECi) promotes youth engagement through online courses, volunteer opportunities, and workshops, enhancing skills and fostering community integration. With 93% of participants reporting improved skills and motivation, CECi contributes to personal growth and sustainable civic involvement.

➤ **ULB Engagee**

#### 8. [Playcation](#)

Playcation, by the Flemish Community Commission (VGC), creates opportunities for free play in Brussels, focusing on low-income areas. Through projects, it transforms public spaces into engaging play environments, encouraging children's creativity and social interaction during the summer months.

➤ **Vlaamse Gemeenschapscommissie**

#### 9. [Urban Foxes: Academy for Urban Action & DURF](#)

Urban Foxes engages youth in urban action through initiatives like the Academy for Urban Action (AUA), DURF, and Placemaking for Inclusion. AUA fosters youth-led urban projects, DURF involves youth in government decision-making, and Placemaking for Inclusion provides tools for youth involvement in sustainability efforts.



➤ **Urban Foxes**



#### 10. [KRAS](#)

KRAS engages youth in Flanders and Brussels through role-playing and decision-making on themes like identity, fostering active citizenship, and sustainable development, empowering them with competencies for social impact.

➤ **Globelink**

#### 11. [Working towards decolonization](#)

VZW Kuumba fosters cultural exchange and awareness, bridging gaps between African communities and mainstream institutions by addressing Belgium's colonial history with Congo. Through tours, workshops, and events, Kuumba promotes dialogue and talent expression, expanding its reach and collaborations with major institutions.

➤ **KUUMBA**

#### 12. [Empowering Brussels girls through identity development and shared leadership](#)

Molenbeek Rebels empowers girls in Brussels through basketball, fostering inclusion and diversity with shared leadership and ownership. Girls take on responsibilities, gaining self-confidence and teamwork skills, while workshops and training courses help them acquire competencies and diplomas.

➤ **Molenbeek Rebels Basketball**

#### 13. [The power of youthwork](#)

The Flemish Playground Service (VDS) trains and supports youth workers for holiday activities and playground operations, emphasizing participation and responsibility to empower young citizens for community engagement.

➤ **VDS Brussels**

#### 14. [Youth Coalition – Molenbeek for Brussels 2030](#)

The Youth Coalition – Molenbeek for Brussels 2030 involved 100 young people from Brussels to envision the city's future in 2030 across six commissions, fostering dialogue and optimism. This initiative created a network of committed young people and built connections across communities.

➤ **Molenbeek for Brussels 2030**



#### 15. [Psycho-social](#)

D'Broej aims to provide support for young individuals in a accessible manner, addressing various aspects of their lives. Their commitment extends to breaking down taboos, including topics such as mental health, academic challenges, and loneliness. Additionally, they dedicate themselves to safeguarding the right to leisure for young people who might otherwise face exclusion. By providing a safe haven, their goal is to establish a space where young individuals feel secure, allowing them to openly discuss matters that concern them.

##### ➤ **D'Broej**

#### 16. [Habbekrats is a youth welfare work](#)

Habbekrats offers children and young people something precious and valuable: time and space. Therefore, at the start of 2021, Habbekrats will have 38,000 m2 of youth space that is centrally located, transparent and maximally easily accessible. Habbekrats has 19 youth centres, most of them in Flanders and now also in Brussels. They give children/young people the time and space for leisure activities, various projects and also the welfare of the child is at stake. Besides the youth houses, there is also an adventure house used for the camps. The adventure house is located in the Ardennes. Every weekend and during the school holidays, we organise various themed camps, each highlighting a social theme.

##### ➤ **Habbekrats**

#### 17. Zentrum für Förderpädagogik - Special Education Center

#### 18. [Ajcfestival](#)

On the occasion of the Belgian Presidency 2024 of the European Union, the Forum des Jeunes, the Bureau International Jeunesse and the Youth Service of the Wallonia-Brussels Federation wish to :

- offer young people a physical space for expression, exchange and participation
- raise the profile of youth activities in the Wallonia-Brussels Federation by proposing programming in collaboration with the youth sector

##### ➤ **Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles, Forum des jeunes et Bureau international Jeunesse**

18:00 - 19:00

Thematic reflection groups

1. Youth work and participation from childhood /Production Room 1/
2. Quality local youth work /Production Room 2/
3. Reach out and inclusive youth work /Loge 1/
4. Participatory environments and spaces to participate /Loge 2/
5. Information, critical thinking and active citizenship /Press Room/
6. Roles and needs of municipalities /Cinéma Room/



19:00 – 21.00

*Dinner: Seated Dinner at The EGG /Grand event hall/  
Cultural programme: Lyna Lahbiri*

**Friday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> (The EGG Brussels)**

10:00-11:00

Market place /River side/

11:00 – 11:30

*Coffee break /River side/*

11:30 – 13:00

Presentation of the outcomes and closing (*live streamed*) /Auditorium/

Presentation of the main policy messages of the event by **Guy Redig**, general rapporteur of the event

Youth work in Ukraine - **Andriy Chesnokov**, Deputy Minister for European Integration, Ministry of Youth and Sports of Ukraine

Policy panel reflecting on the outcomes of the event:

**Ioannis Malekos**, Head of Unit of DG EAC-B3 European Commission

**Tobias Flessenkemper** Head of the Youth Department, Council of Europe

**Stephen De Ron** - Member of Hesperange Municipal Council --Committee of the Regions

**Veronique Bertholle**, deputy thematic spokesperson on Youth - CoE Congress of Local and Regional Authorities

**Xesc Mainzer**, member of the Advisory Council on Youth

**Milosh Ristovski**, Secretary General of the European Youth Forum

Reflection by the coordinators of Europe Goes Local and Democracy Reloading: **Judit Balogh** and **László Földi**

Announcement of the 4th European Youth Work Convention by **Miriam Teuma** CEO Agenzija Zghazagh (Maltese Youth Agency)

Closing words by **Benjamin Dalle**, Flemish Minister of Brussels, Youth, Media and Poverty Reduction

13:00 - 14:30

*Lunch /River side/*

14:30

Departure