



# KEKS

Knowledge-based  
youth work policy and practice

Prague, March 26th 2025

# KEKS

We develop knowledge-based youth work together

- Network of municipal departments and youth work providers
- 85 member organisations in nine countries
- Financed by membership fees and project funding
- Governed by nine regional and one main board
- Six staff members

KEKS overarching aim is to  
further develop  
and strengthen youth work



**KEKS**

## Our cooperation builds on:

- ✓ Common measurable aims
- ✓ A common system for documentation and follow up
- ✓ Common development of competence, methods, organisation and policy

Addressing the whole organisation, from youth workers and managers to politicians.



# What does it take to develop youth work?

The ability to see how different ways of working leads to different outcomes

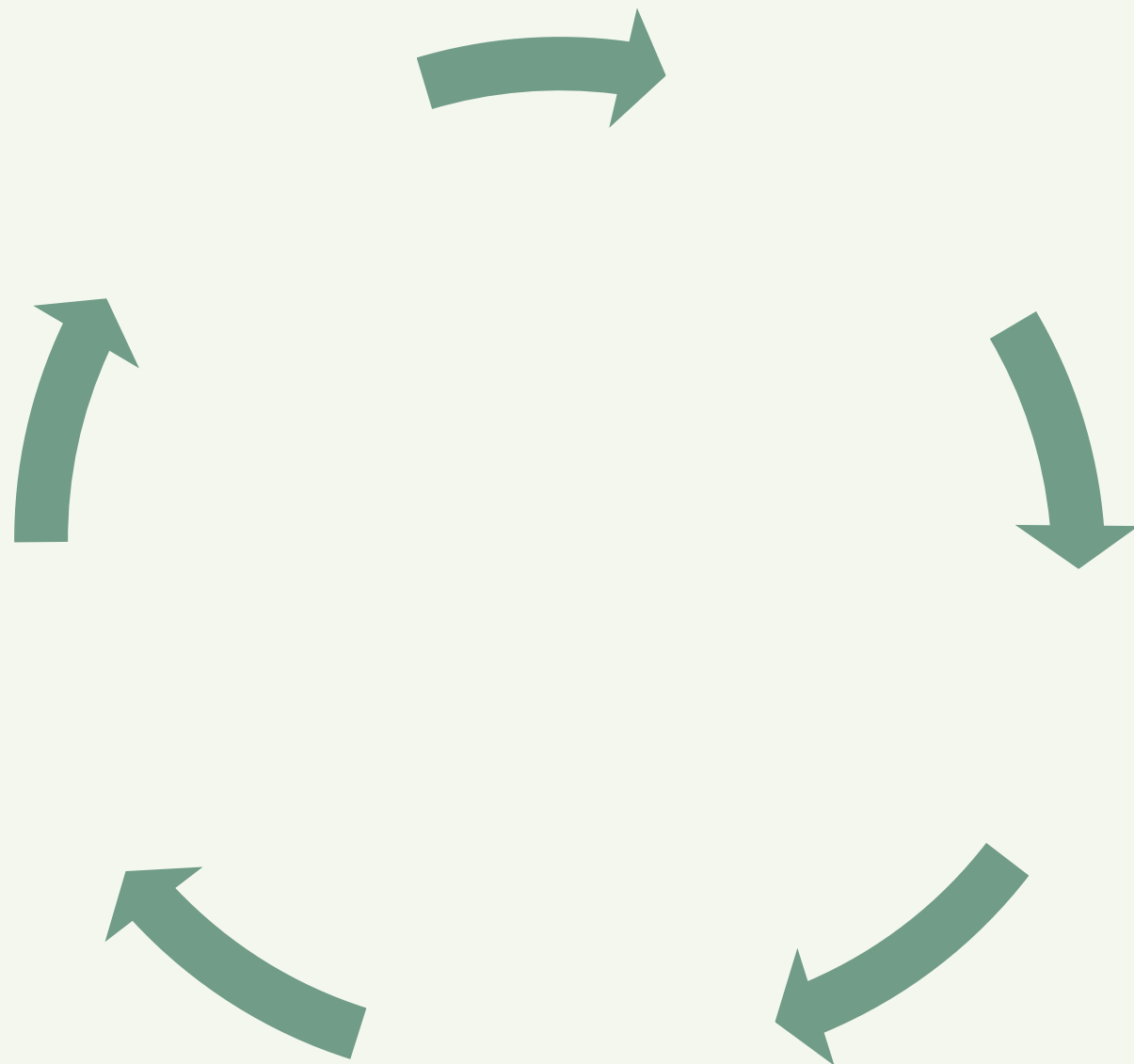
= a system for quality assurance



Policy



KEKS work cycle



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- Our over all aim of youth work is to support the personal and social development of young people through non-formal and in-formal learning.
- In order to do this, our “idea of youth work” is that youth work should:

“Stimulate and support activities that are based on and requires the active engagement and responsibility of young people.”



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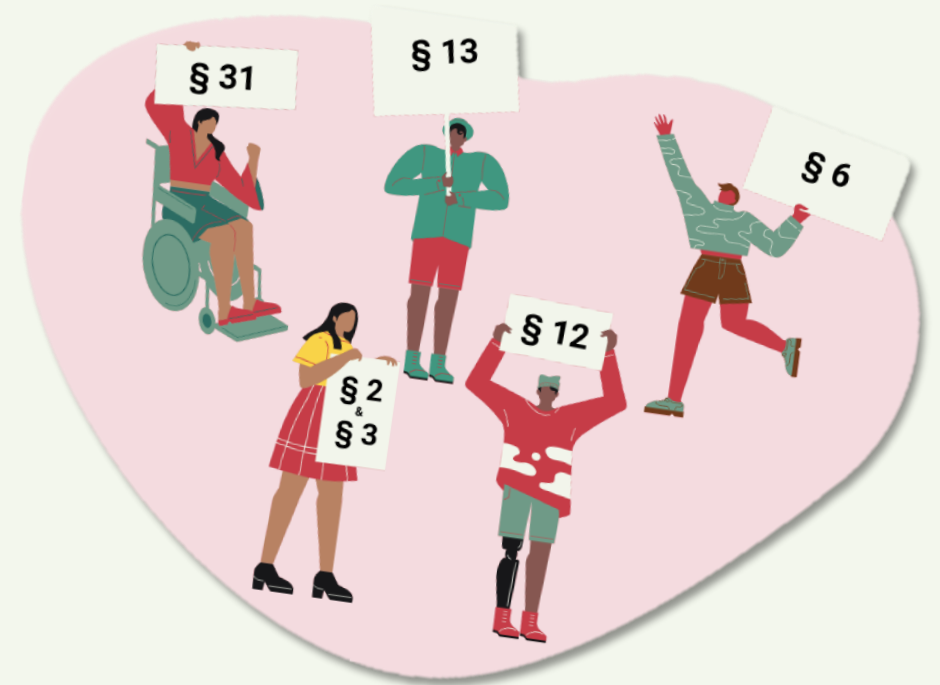
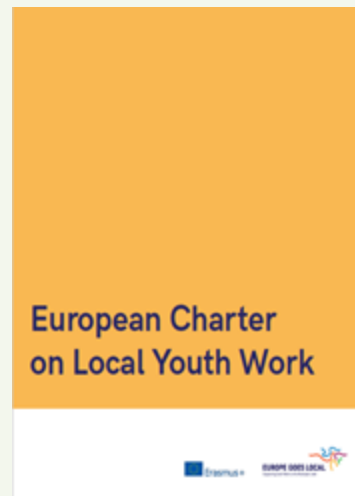
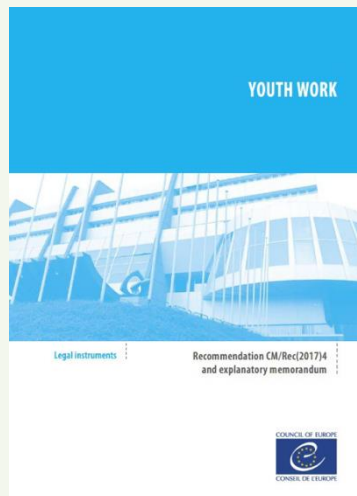


## KEKS long term measurable aims are:

Deviation from equal gender balance (max)	10 %
Index, Safety and treatment	90 %
Index, Influence and taking responsibility	50 %
Share of young people that produces activities	30 %
Share activity time produced by young people	60 %
Index, Participation (Groups/Projects)	75 %
Index, Learning (Groups/Projects)	85 %



- Convention on the Rights of the Child
- CoE Recommendation on Youth Work
- European Charter on Local Youth Work

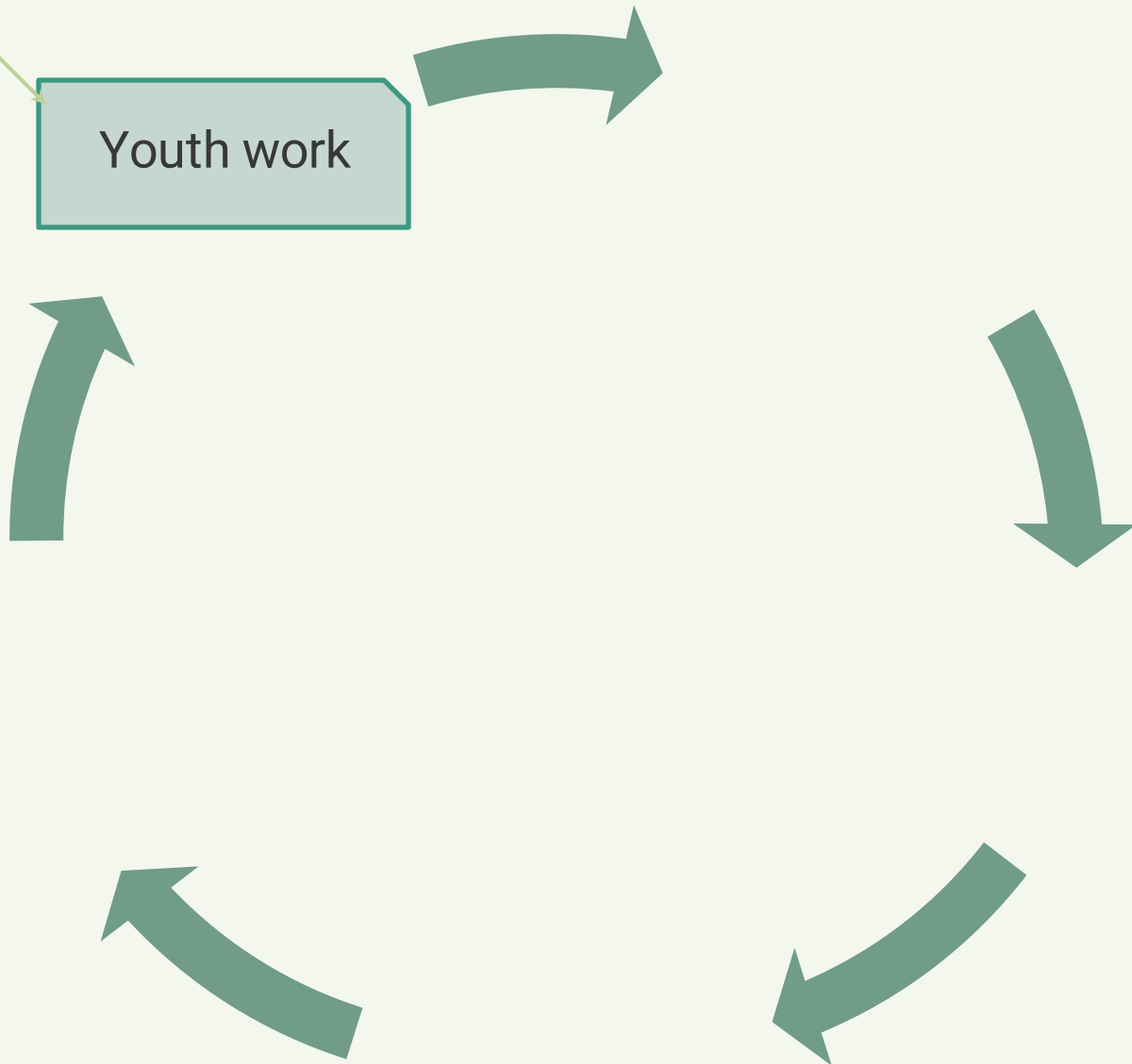


Policy



Youth work

KEKS work cycle





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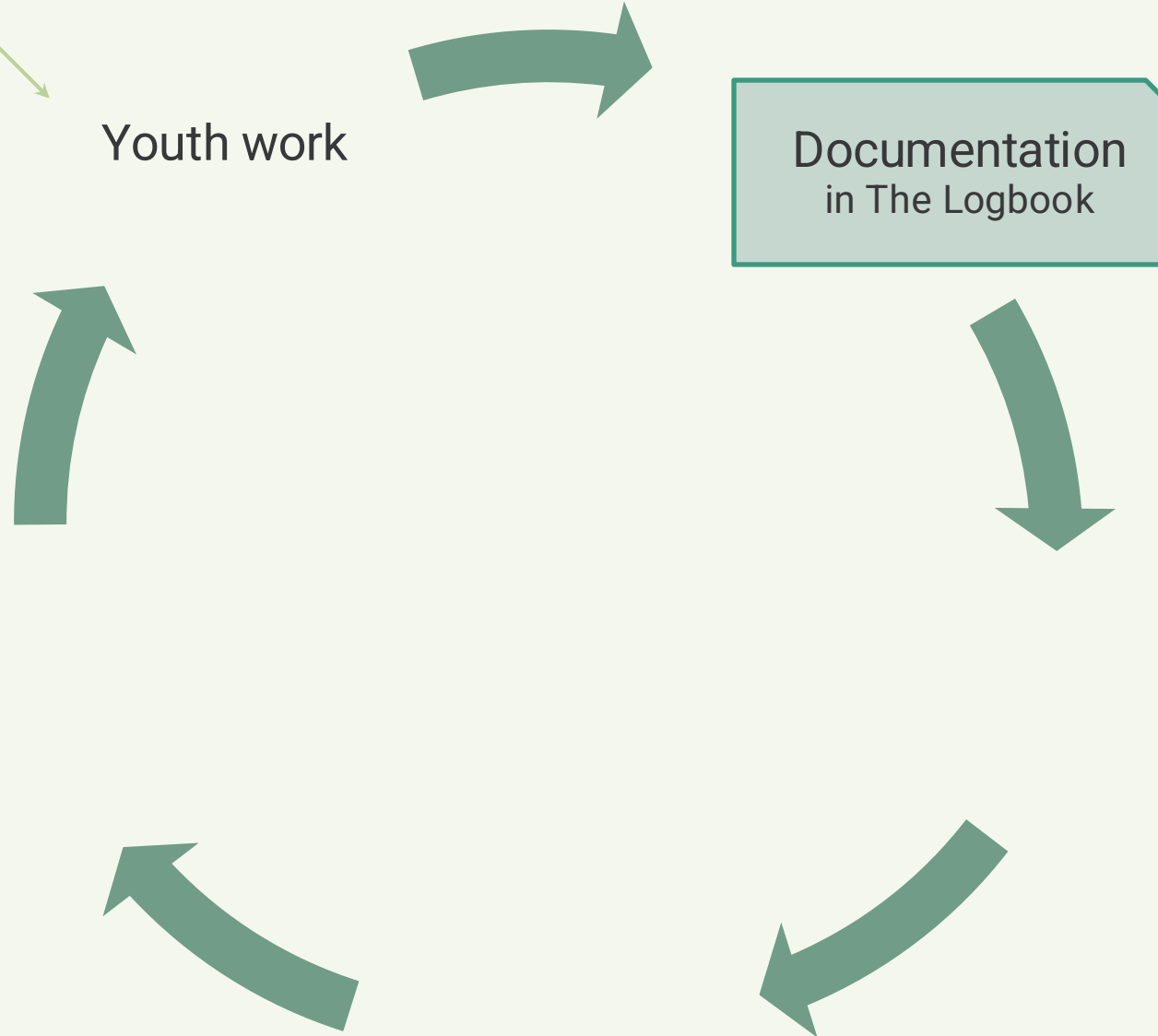
Policy



Youth work

# KEKS arbetscykel

Documentation  
in The Logbook







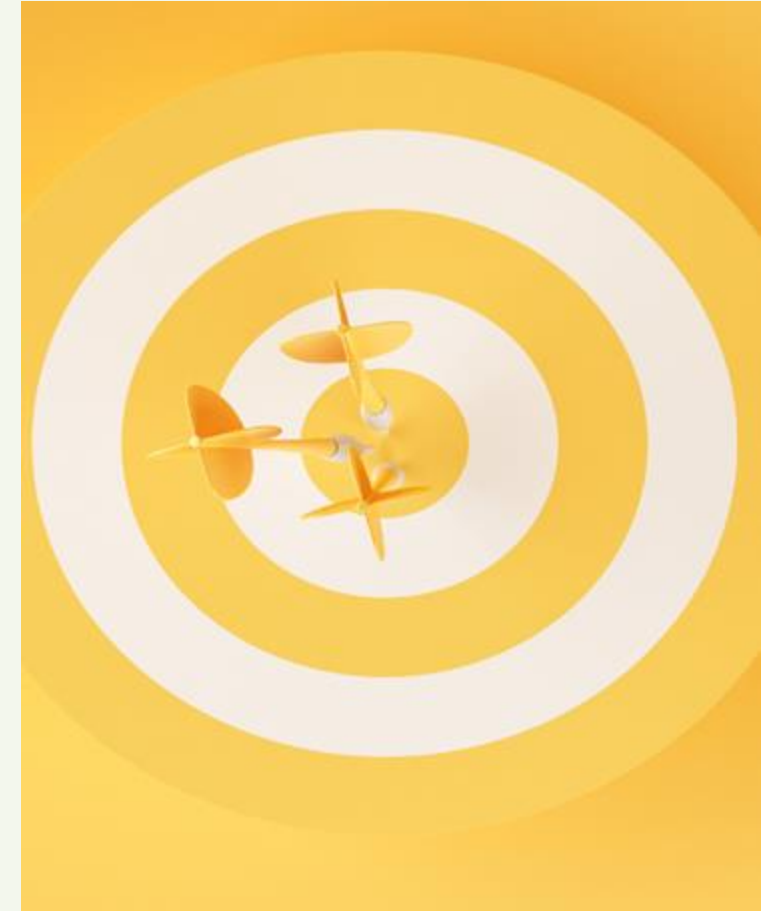
# The Logbook

An easy-to-use web-based system that gathers information through:

- ✓ Statistics
- ✓ Notes
- ✓ Questionnaires to young people
- ✓ Key figures

## The Logbook enables us:

- ✓ To create knowledge "through critical and constructive reflection on relevant facts"
- ✓ To see to what degree we meet our aims/policy
- ✓ To gather the information we need to improve
- ✓ To do benchmarking and learn from each other
- ✓ To show our outcomes to others and to do facts-based advocacy



Policy



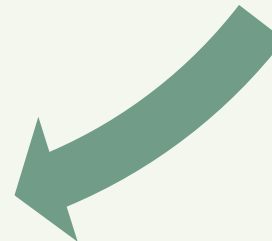
Youth work



Documentation  
The Logbook



Follow up  
group- and  
youth service  
questionnaires



# KEKS work cycle



# Annual Youth Service Questionnaire

# Group Questionnaire

A close-up photograph of several hands of different skin tones stacked together in a circle, symbolizing unity, teamwork, and support. The hands are positioned in a way that they overlap, with some fingers pointing towards the center. The background is a soft, out-of-focus grey.

## Key figures form

Is filled in every year

- ✓ Number of activity hours
- ✓ Number of visits
- ✓ Costs
- ✓ Number of young people in target group





Every year...

We compile statistics, results from the questionnaires and the key figures to an overall result

- ✓ For each youth centre
- ✓ For each municipality/organisation

Presented variable by variable and divided on gender

- ✓ In relation to the results from previous years
- ✓ In relation to the KEKS average
- ✓ In relation to KEKS common aims





ÖPPEN  
UNGDOMSVERKSAMHET

ACTIVITIES

OPERATIONS

REPORTS

DOCUMENTS

SURVEYS

TRANSLATIONS

Charts

Good enough

Annual compilation

Group questionnaire

Excel

Questionnaire answers

11936

Youth service questionnaire

Questionnaire answers

696

Group questionnaire

Index Security and treatment

90%

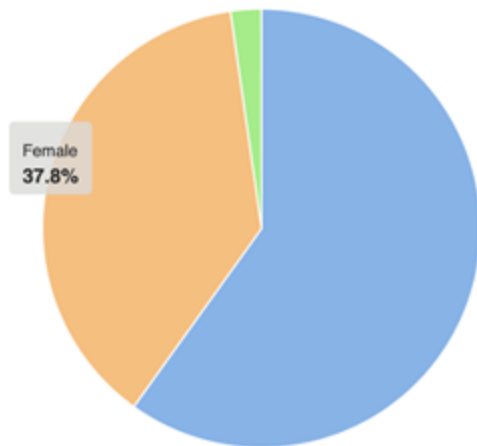
Youth service questionnaire

Index influence, participation  
and taking responsibility

63%

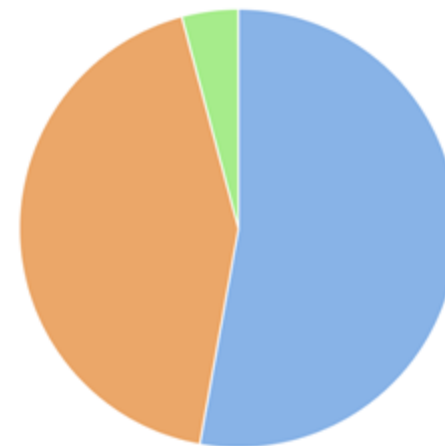
Youth service questionnaire

GENDER BALANCE OPEN ACTIVITIES  
(THE LOGBOOK)



Male Female Non Binary

GENDER BALANCE GROUP/CLOSED ACTIVITIES  
(THE LOGBOOK)



Male Female Non Binary



	GE-aims	Result Slovenia 2024
<b>Result operations</b>		
Deviation from equal gender balance	10%	7%
INDEX security and treatment	90%	91%
INDEX influence, participation and taking responsibility	50%	73%
Share of young producers	30%	7%
Share of activities produced by young people	60%	19%
INDEX Participation, group activities	75%	79%
INDEX learning group activities	85%	85%
Costs per visit		17 €
Costs per activity hour		58 €
Average answers	4.3	4.4
<b>Key figure</b>		
Total result compared to the average in KEKS	1.0	1.00
Total result compared to the average in KEKS, group activities not included		1.00

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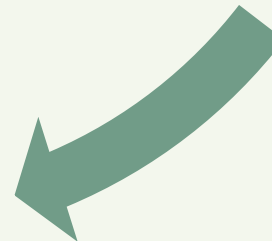
Youth work



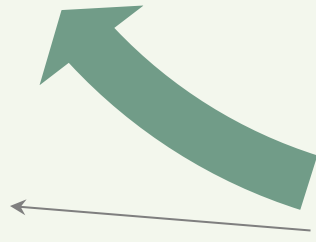
Documentation  
in The Logbook



Follow up  
group- and  
youth service  
questionnaires



Analysis  
and reflection



... youth workers  
... young people  
... other stakeholders

# KEKS work cycle



These results ...

are then analysed in different settings (e.g. staff, young people, politicians) and used as a basis for

- Setting aims and objectives for the coming year (what indexes should be improved)
- Development of competence (seminars, courses, etc.)
- Development of methods and organisation
- Further research
- Advocacy for youth work



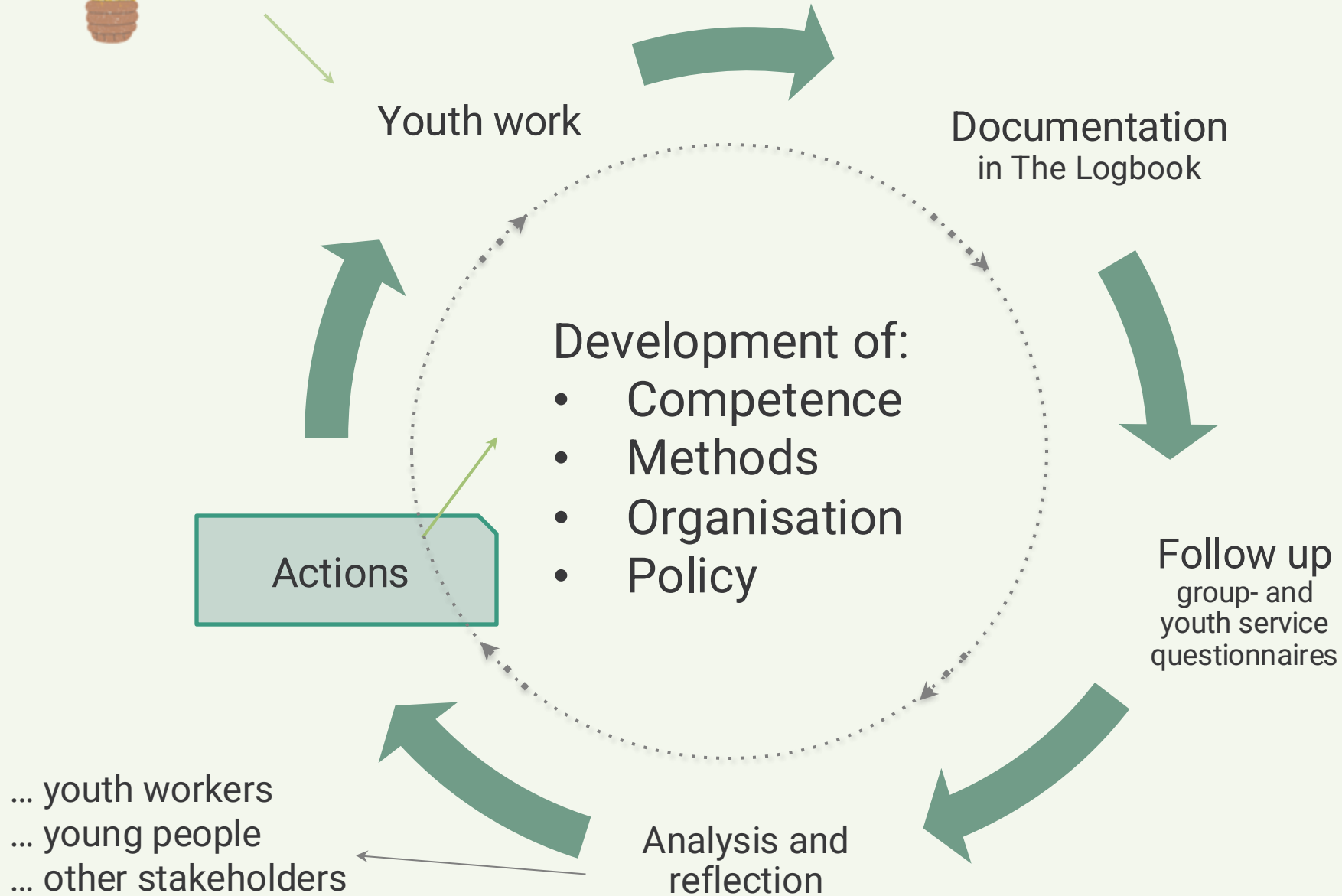
# Showing effects

	Youth worker supported	Autonomous groups
Index participation in group activities	82 %	54 %
I think I have learned new things	88 %	58 %
I have become better at		
▶ taking responsibility	61 %	26 %
▶ cooperating	65 %	39 %
▶ handling conflicts	37 %	16 %
Taking part has made me		
▶ feel better mentally	43 %	31 %
▶ have less preconceptions	35 %	19 %

Policy



# KEKS work cycle



## KEKS work cycle

- Continuous reflection and analysis
- Formulate local yearly objectives
- Formulate local action plans
- Formulate needs for development
- Plan continuous follow-up





**Mia Wallengren**

Head of Department for

Leisure Time and Public Health,

Borås Municipality in Sweden



**BORÅS  
STAD**





Questions?

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“If you don’t need young people to do youth work, you  
are not doing youth work”



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Thank you!



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**KEKS**

## Questions to discuss:

- What challenges do you foresee in implementing a system like this?
  - In relation to youth workers?
  - In relation to organisations providing youth work/NGOs?
  - In relation to the political level?
- What kind of help/support would you need to handle these challenges?
- What from this practice presentation inspired you? What could you "steal" / consider / apply in your local context?
- How could you improve your youth work policy concretely, based on this? Is there a concrete step you could or will take?

