

"Now I know what youth work is about"



Using Youth Work Curriculum to communicate Youth Work

A group of eight young women are standing in a line outdoors, wearing traditional Finnish folk costumes. They are dressed in various styles, including blue and white dresses with red accents, and light-colored dresses with intricate embroidery. The background shows a white tent structure and some people in the distance.

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Photo by: Anna Enbuske, Aleksi Murtojärvi / Allianssi ry

Diversity of Youth Work

- **Semantic diversity:** even the term 'youth work' does not exist in some languages in Europe
- **Differences in the way youth work relates to larger service system** (education-oriented vs. social work oriented)
- There are differences in the **target group**
- **Resources and facilities differ.**
- **The identity question:** what is youth work, how it should be understood, how can we explain the tacit knowledge of youth work



Youth Act definitions (Finland)



- Young people are under 29 year old
- Youth work is about **supporting the growth of the young** and helping them **to become independent** and **encouraging participation** of the young in society
- Youth policy is about **improving the growth conditions and the living conditions of the young** and **interaction between generations**

Recognition of Youth Work in Finland

- Youth work is generally seen as an **independent agent**. It is financed by the **state, local authorities and parishes**.
- There is **youth worker education in vocational education**, in universities of applied sciences and on the university level. Even doctoral programs exist.
- Youth work is mentioned in the **National Core Curriculum as one of the co-operating partners for schools**. There are many policy programs in different policy levels integrating youth work services to service systems.
- **Youth workers have associations**. There is a state-sponsored network of centres of excellence for promoting youth work.
- **Research on youth work** is financed by the state.



Basic ideas of Youth Work Curriculum

- Youth work is a form of **education**, and can be explicated as such.
- Youth work in a local context can be **authentically described** only by that particular youth work community.
- Youth work curriculum **describes youth work as it is in a local context**, not as an idealised version of what we hope to achieve.
- Curriculum is based on **describing the process of youth work**, not outcomes or goals.
- Curriculum of youth work was first developed in a **practice-based research**, which is a variant of action research. The process has been studied for over a decade.



Why Youth Work Curriculum?



Common discussion of youth work is important and needed



To keep up with the change in operational environment and youth cultures



The need for being able to clear about rationale of practice and to develop a better articulation and communication of youth work



To understand the role of youth work in relation to other services



To clear up role among the others actors working with youth



To strengthen the ability for long-term planning of youth work but still keep up with the flexibility of it

Starting points



- In the process of learning any individual youth worker **will become a member of a larger community of youth work**, and while doing so he or she absorbs the knowledge, ethos, concepts and methodologies held dear by this community.
- The importance of **communities of practice**
- Although there is an emphasis of a social background in this theory, in the end the question is about **“what particular people do, in a particular place and time”**; social practice “contributes to the formation of their identities as people of a particular kind, and their agency and sense of agency” (Kemmis, 2009, 23).

Youth Work as relational pedagogy

Individual and social dimensions of learning

The relations of the young to

1. other young people (peer relations).
 2. to adults, such as parents, teachers etc. (inter-generational relations).
 3. the social structures, such as schooling, welfare systems (relations to welfare state)
 4. to the local area and city.
 5. to the society (active citizenship, participation in the political life) and lastly,
 6. to the global world and to the eco-system.
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Example of youth work curriculum

Table 43.2 Youth Work Curriculum

<i>Form of Youth Work</i>	<i>Methods Used</i>	<i>Aims</i>	<i>Time Scale and Target Group</i>	<i>Supports Relations of the Young to</i>
Communal Youth Work	Youth clubs Cooperation with School Local cooperation that enables long-term support for young people.	Offers guidance and support for young people. Works locally to improve the quality of life and the status of young people.	Key age range is 9-17. The duration of the relationship with the young varies from months up to four years.	Other young people Adults Local area and communal networks
Societal Youth Work	Operates at the macro level Assisting Youth organizations Collecting data about the living conditions and situations of the young Evaluation of the Youth work and guiding resources	Improves the living conditions of young people in cooperation with young people, networks, and decision-makers. Promotes youth affairs in municipal decision-making as well as in regional cooperation.	Indirectly targeting all young people of Kokkola, the main target group being 12-18 year old. Implementation requires long-term multi-disciplinary co-operation with other sectors and decision-maker partners	Society Local area and communal networks



Youth Services of City of Vaasa

Youth Work Basic Plan Educational goals of Youth Services

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Educational Goals of Youth Services

- In youth work, young people's growth and independence are supported, and their ability to recognize their own skills is strengthened. Youth services provide young people with safe spaces to be, opportunities to participate, and engage in hobbies. Young people are encouraged to respect others.
- Youth work strengthens young people's interaction skills, participation, community spirit, and cultural means of self-expression. Youth work supports young people's societal roles and opportunities to realize their dreams. Youth services take into account the principles of sustainable development.



Individual Youth Work

In youth work, young people's ability to recognize their own skills, opportunities, rights, and responsibilities is strengthened.

Community-based Youth Work

In youth work, interaction skills, participation, and community spirit are strengthened.

Societal Youth Work

In youth work, young people's societal roles are supported.

SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES THAT ENABLE YOUTH WORK

Quality youth work is enabled by good leadership, coordination, and collaboration.

Individual Youth Work

Educational goal

In youth work, young people's growth and independence are supported so that they have the courage to be themselves and the skills to function in society. Youth work strengthens young people's ability to recognize their own skills, opportunities, rights, and responsibilities.

Activities

- Individual guidance and encounters in youth work
- Outreach youth work
- Youth workshop activities
- Youth information and counseling work



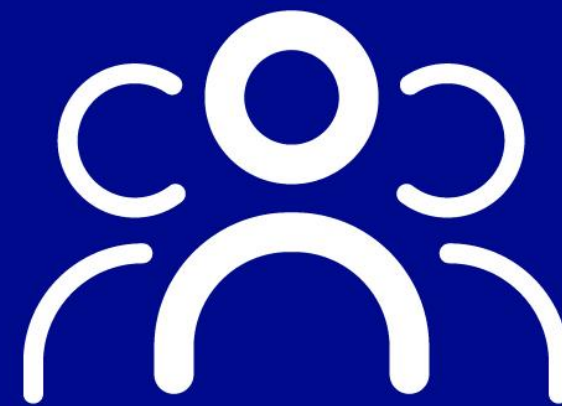
Community-based Youth Work

Educational goal

In youth work, interaction skills, participation, community spirit, and cultural means of self-expression are strengthened. Young people are encouraged to respect others. Youth services provide young people with safe spaces to be, participate, and engage in hobbies.

Activities

- Open youth center work
- Mobile youth work
- School and educational institution youth work
- Musical youth work
- Digital youth work
- Group, camp, and hobby activities
- Events



Societal Youth Work

Educational goal

Youth work supports and strengthens young people's roles in society and their opportunities to realize their dreams. Young people are encouraged to influence, participate, and act both locally and globally. Youth services take into account the principles of sustainable development.

Activities

- Youth council
- Multidisciplinary network
- Network and stakeholder collaboration
- International youth work
- Grants to Youth Organisations
- Support for young people's self-directed activities
- Summer jobs for young people



In the collaboration of youth services:

- We act professionally, communicate openly, and comply with legislation
- We work systematically and respect the members of the work community and their opinions
- We ensure that agreed-upon tasks are completed
- We work in a multidisciplinary manner both within and outside the organization
- We use resources wisely
- Everyone strengthens the team spirit of the work community

Educational youth work is carried out by:

- Listening to and considering the needs and wishes of young people
- Engaging genuinely, without haste, and being present
- Communicating that every young person is valuable
- Creating a safe environment to be and act
- Working professionally together with joy, not forgetting humor and good spirits
- Encouraging young people to participate and influence as part of society
- Taking into account the principles of sustainable development in youth services
- Considering equality and non-discrimination in work and activities

Contact information

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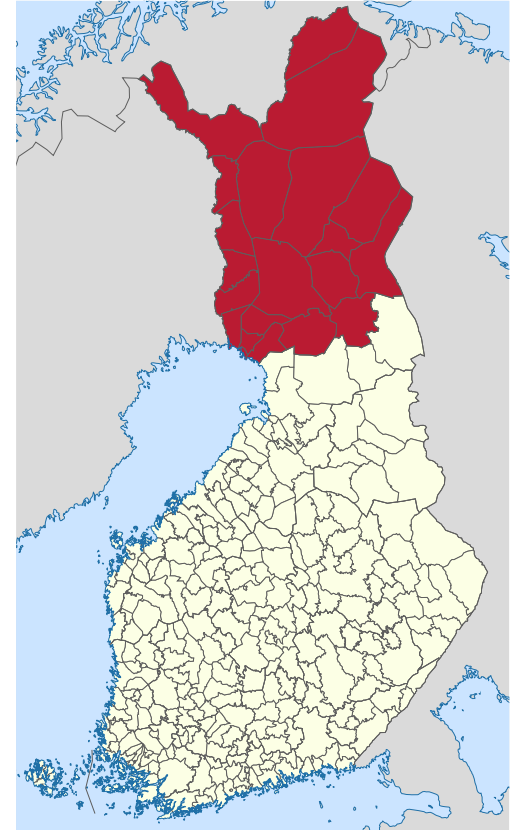


Muonio



Region of Lapland

- Finland's northernmost, largest and most sparsely populated province
- Special feature is long distances and small municipal centers, polar night and day, nature and wilderness areas
- Population density in Lapland 1,9 resident / square kilometer (Population density in Bohemia 124,8 resident / square kilometer)



Basic plan of youth work from Region of Lapland



- The province of Lapland consists of 21 municipalities (4 of them are cities)
- 18 municipalities participated in the project
- The plan was made in the years 2018-2020
- Funding was received from the Regional State Administrative Agency (municipalities also financed the project)

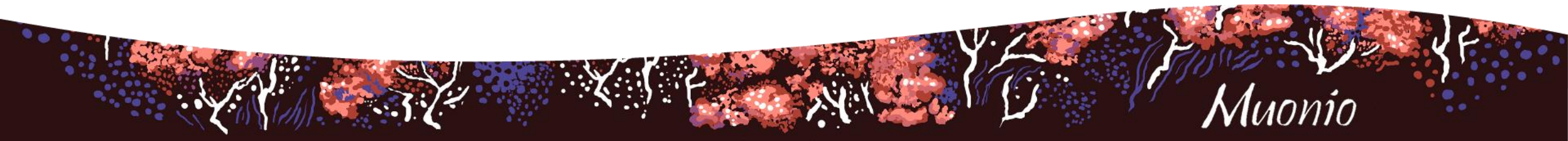


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Basic plan of youth work from Region of Lapland



- One of the main goals of this project was to find the right words how to describe youth work
 1. First step was when we defined the values of Lappish youth work
 - Creativity, Equality, Immediacy, Naturalness and Courage
 2. Next, we define three forms of work in Lappish youth work
 - Enabling youth work, community-based open youth work, targeted youth work
 3. Third, we defined the different methods used under these work forms.



Basic plan of youth work from Region of Lapland



• Enabling youth work

- Youth policy
- Administrative and development tasks
- Developing well-being and competence at work
- Supporting youth organizations and youth action groups

• Community-based open youth work

- Youth center activities
- Club activities
- School youth work
- Physical youth work
- Cultural youth work
- Nature and adventure activities
- Mobile youth work
- Multicultural and international youth work

• Targeted youth work

- Outreach youth work
- Youth workshop activities
- Individual guidance
- Small groups
- Crisis preparedness work



- **Materials**

- <https://www.muonio.fi/en/leisure/youth-services.html>
- <https://www.muonio.fi/media/nuorisotoimi/arktinen-nuorisoty-f6-lappinyt-nuorisoty-f6n-perussuunnitelma.pdf>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eBhe832UpCo>

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