



**Make the impact of
Youth Work visible!**

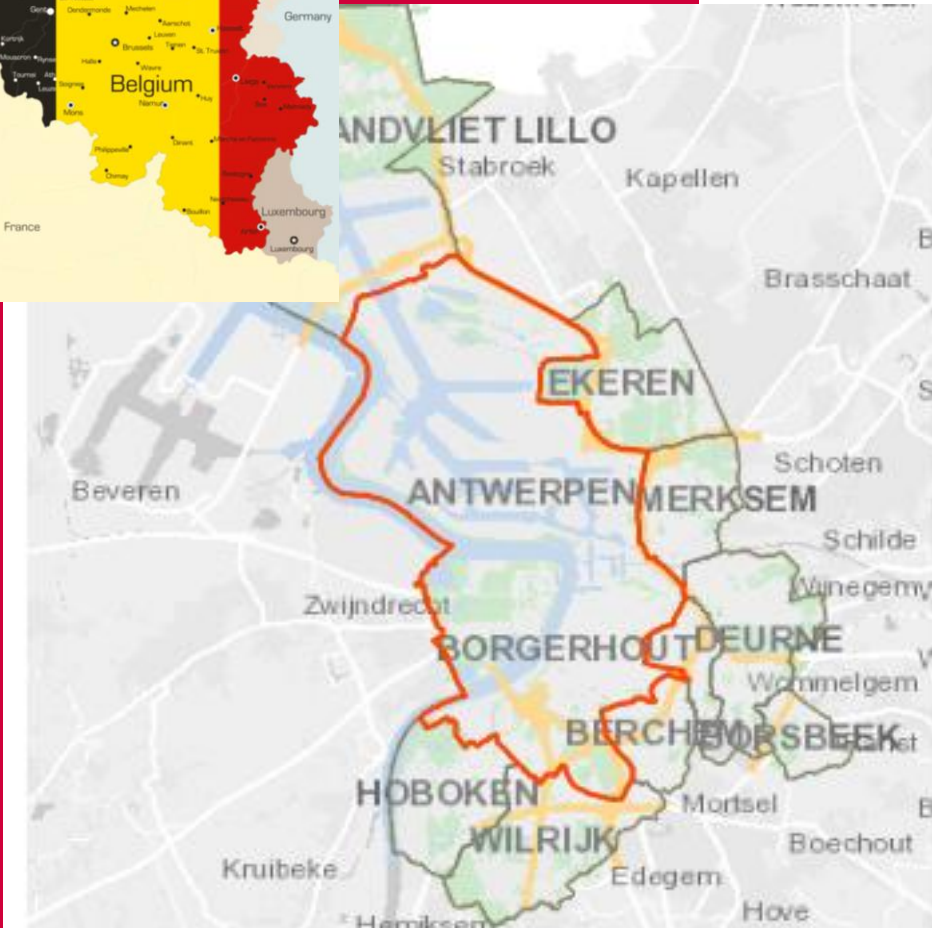
26/03/2025



Who am I ?

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Expert Youth Policy City of Antwerp - Belgium



Why are we here?

1. Collect ideas, opinions, knowledge on different views on “impact” (or other evidence based approaches)
2. Share our “lessons learned” about making impact of youth work visible
3. Find impact allies (set up an international network, bundle resources, share knowledge, ...)



IMPACT

WHY?

WHAT?

HOW?

IMPACT =

“The difference in the indicator of interest (Y) with the intervention (Y1) and without the intervention (Y0). That is, impact : $Y1 - Y0$ ” (Worldbank)



“Positive and negative, primary and secondary long-term effects produced by a development intervention, directly or indirectly, intended or unintended” (OECD-DAC, 2002)

“The change that occurs due to your project in society or in the environment. That is your impact.” ([Sociale Innovatiefabriek - Impact Wizard](#))

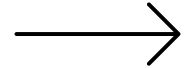


Different views on "impact"

1

Impact as a long-term effect of one specific practice

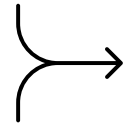
Direct, simple causal relationship between one practice and a specific effect.



2

Impact as a long-term effect to which a practice can contribute

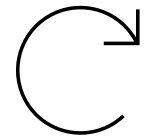
The result of different practices and context factors that can interact with each other;



3

Impact as meaning and value

The purpose of the practice is the practice itself.

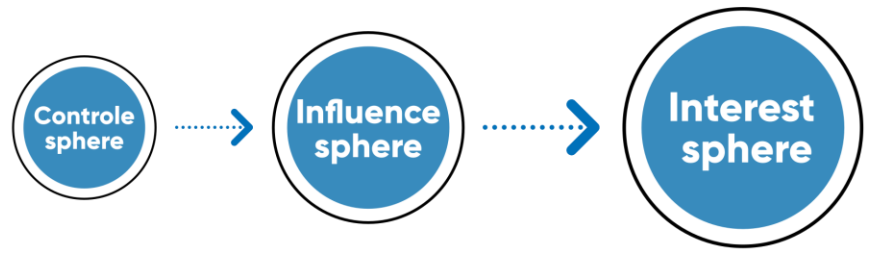
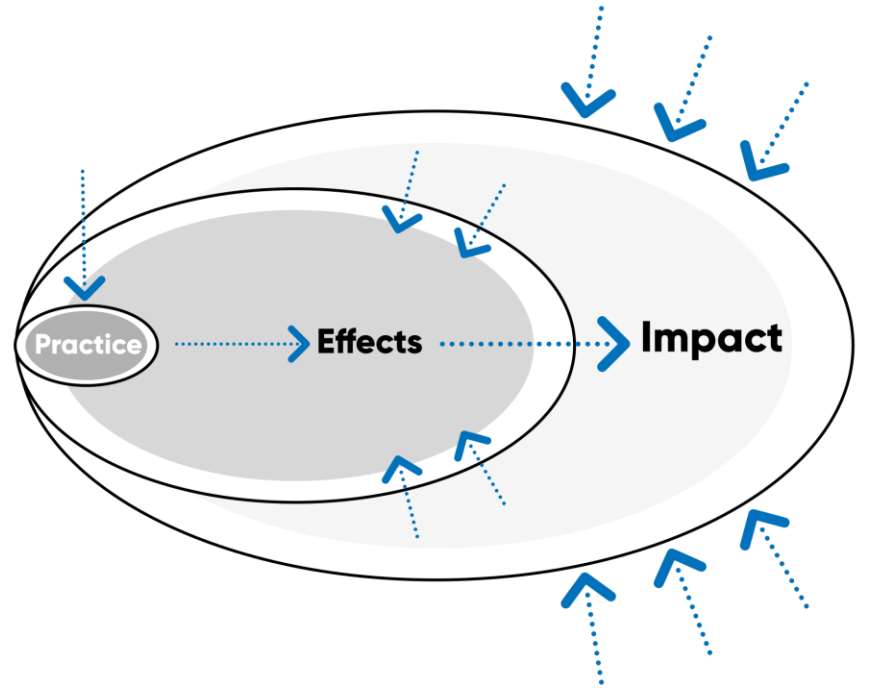




Direct Results

Short & Medium term effects

Long term effects



Gebaseerd op on Earl, Garden & Mutylo (2001) en Montague (2000)

Overgenomen uit: [Peilen naar de impact van sociaal-culturele praktijken \(2014\)](#). M. Berghmans, S. Deprez, H. Celis en J. Vandenabeele m.m.v. Adinda Van Hemelrijck

A group of people in various animal costumes are gathered in a grassy field. On the left, a person wears a pig mask and a green hoodie. In the center, a person wears a dog mask and a striped shirt, sitting in an orange and yellow inflatable boat. On the right, a person wears a chicken mask and a grey shirt. Other people in costumes are visible in the background. The word "IMPACT" is overlaid in large blue letters.

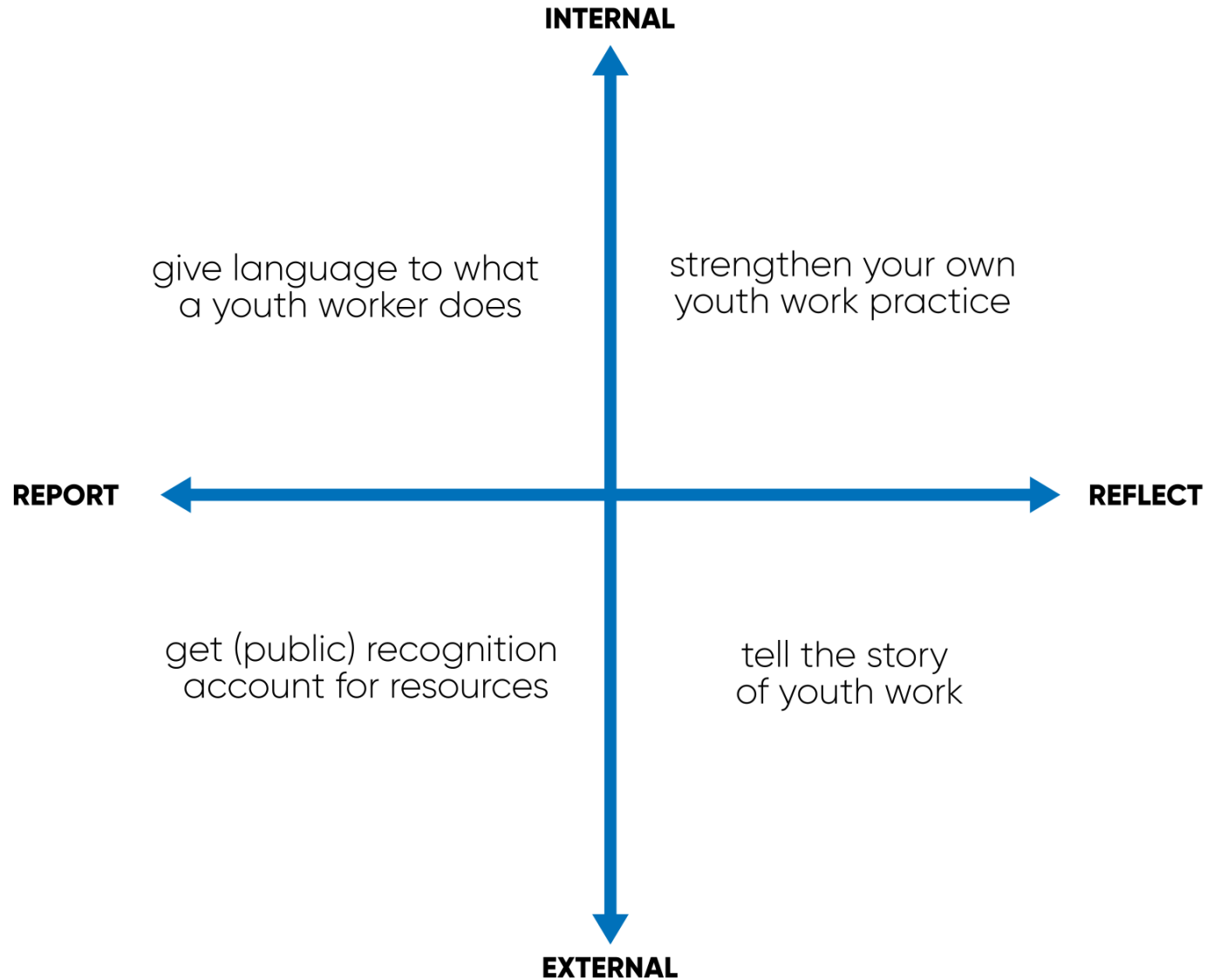
IMPACT

WHY?

WHAT?

HOW?

OBJECTIVES
of making
impact
visible?





IMPACT

WHY?

WHAT?

HOW?



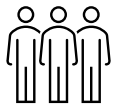
IMPACT on different levels



1. Personal outcomes



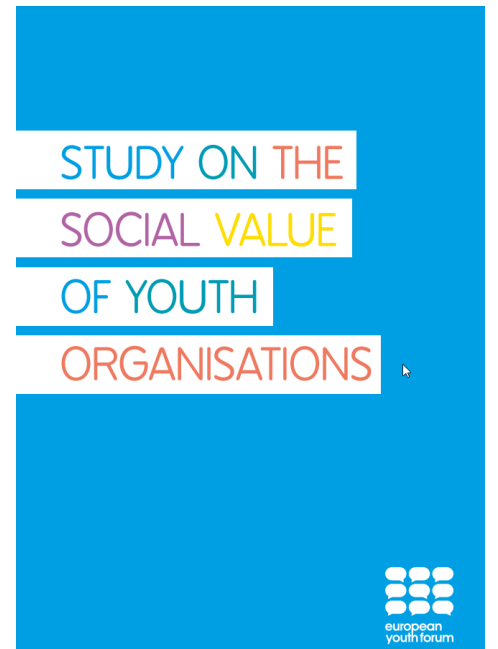
2. Impact on the immediate environment, the neighborhood, the community



3. Social & civic outcomes



4. Political outcomes (Policy making)



A man with a beard, wearing a light-colored t-shirt and dark pants, is captured in mid-air, performing a parkour move on a concrete wall. He is balancing on the edge of the wall with one leg, his arms outstretched for balance. The background shows a clear blue sky and some greenery. A large blue arrow points downwards from the top center of the frame.

IMPACT

WHY?

WHAT?

HOW?

How?

The full process

START

Why?

Context & Focus



PROGRAM THEORY

Theory of Change [TOC]

Input

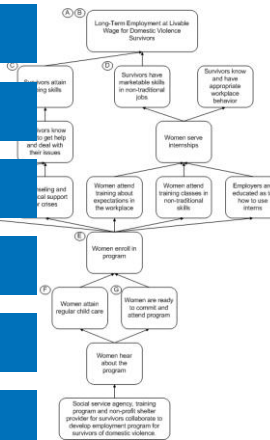
Goal

Intervention

Output

Outcome

Impact



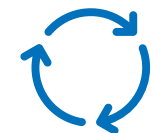
MEASUREMENT

Plan
Data collection
Analyse



Evaluation

Communicate
Adjust
Scale up
Scale down
Scale deep
Scale out



Lessons learned



Impact is a trend



Motivation is key



Impact is a new mindset



Impact is complex
Support is needed



Impact is a process
No “one-tool-fits-all”



Impact needs a
learning community

Future Questions



IMPACT

Is a trend

Everybody is calling for action to prove the outcomes, effects and impact of Youth Work.

But who is working on it and makes it visible?





How did we do it in
Antwerp?



The city of Antwerp offers children, young people and students maximum development opportunities, an attractive future perspective with physical and mental space to be themselves, to experiment and to grow.



'Impact is the intended influence that professional Antwerp youth work has as a result of direct efforts on children and young people.'

Procedure Impact in Antwerp



2021

Research
impact youth
work Antwerp



2022

Route 7 youth
work-organizations
+ feedback panel



2023

Feedback panel
Impact coach
training



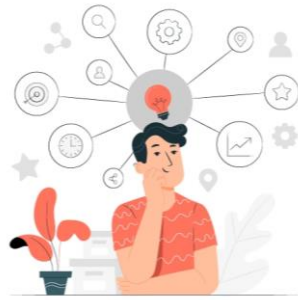
2024

Measure impact of
all subsidized
organizations
Pilot the logbook

Trail 2024 and 2025



Experiment



Small-scale,
manageable
and realistic



Reflection
& evaluation



Awareness



Increase
quality

Future



Self critical youth work → qualitative youth work



Increasing the visibility of youth work → positive perception



Needs & signals → advice for policy



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