

# Youth Work Policy Essentials







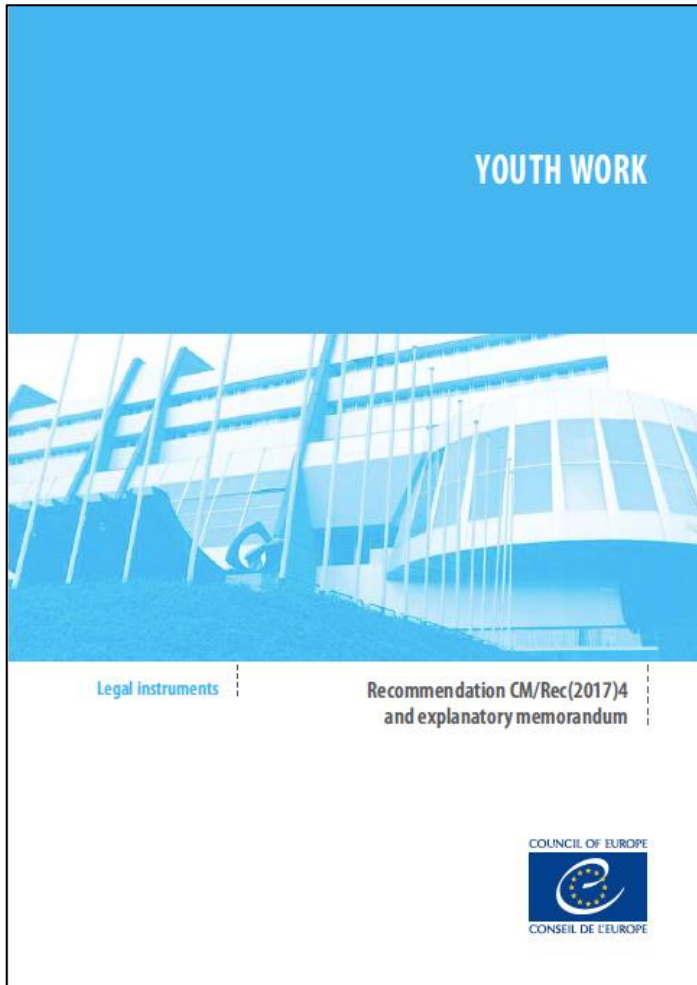
Youth Work Policy  
is essential



Youth work policy???

Municipality???





The recommendation aims  
“to encourage member  
states to develop their  
youth work policy and  
practice”  
Municipality?





**Resolution of the Council**  
and of the Representatives  
of the Governments of the  
Member States on the  
Framework for establishing  
a European Youth Work  
Agenda (2020/C 415/01)

the Agenda has the aim to  
“where possible, fully  
integrate youth work  
policies into all levels of  
youth policy ...”





**Resolution of the Council**  
and of the representatives  
of the governments of the  
Member States on youth  
work policy in an  
empowering Europe  
(C/2024/3526)

“By investing in a robust and long-term local youth work policy, based on intense dialogue and participation, local governments create concrete conditions for the optimal development of local youth work.”





**Resolution of the Council**  
and of the representatives  
of the governments of the  
Member States on youth  
work policy in an  
empowering Europe  
(C/2024/3526)

“Raise awareness among youth work organisations and youth workers of the importance of contributing to policy-related matters and support their acquisition of competencies needed for making that contribution.”





And here we are!

The “youth work community of practice”!

The ones that should:

“shape both the content of the Agenda and its future development.”

And implement it “within our sphere of competence, mandates, roles and capacities”.



So,  
we are the ones  
and this is the time and space  
to develop local youth work policy!



But what does this mean in practice?

- How do we go beyond fancy (European) rhetoric about democracy and human rights?
- How do we create a youth work policy that makes clear youth work's specific and distinct contributions to young people and society.



The basic purpose of policy is to guide practice,  
telling practitioners what they should achieve,  
for whom and based on which principles.

It defines our role and sets the aims  
we are supposed to reach.



Different aims and roles also explain way a more overarching youth policy needs to be broken down and specified in relation to various aspects of young people's lives, e.g. formal education, housing, and, in our case, youth work.



A strategy, on the other hand, should make clear what organisations and youth workers then plan to do to reach those aims.

These two should not be mixed or overlap. The conditions under which we work are constantly changing, and an efficient strategy must hence be continuously adapted to policy, not be mixed into it.



# Youth work policy essentials!

CONGRESS OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL AUTHORITIES

The Congress



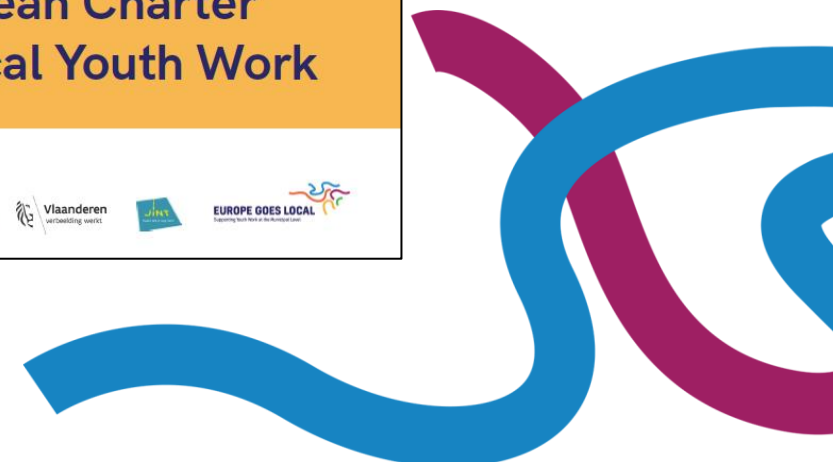
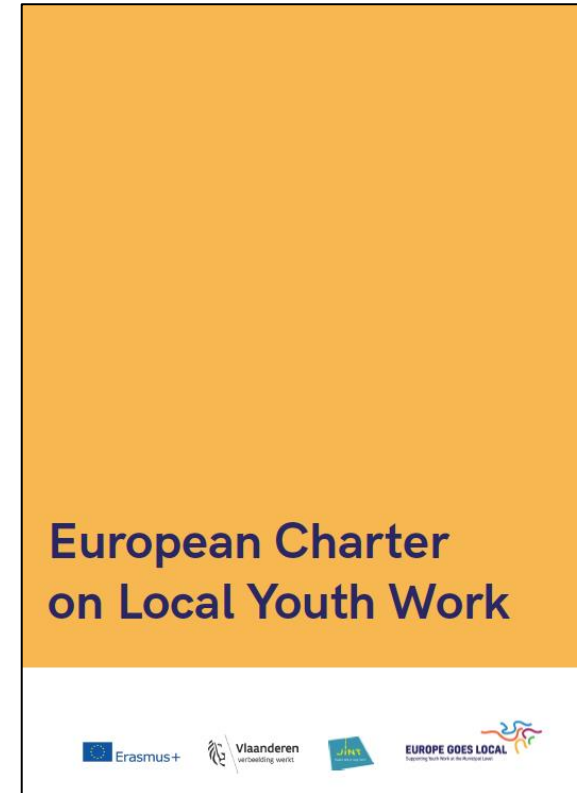
Le Congrès

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Youth work and the role of  
local and regional authorities



So,  
what do these two documents state  
are the essentials of youth work policy



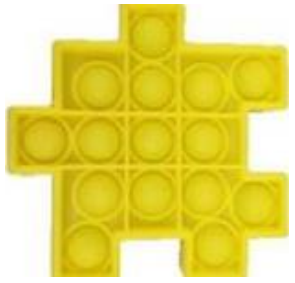




# Youth work policy essentials!

1. It should be a specific and distinct youth work policy.
  - I.e. it should comply with the core principles and values of youth work as stated in the Council of Europe Recommendation on Youth Work and the European Charter on Local Youth Work.
  - I.e. it should make clear the role/mission and boundaries of youth work in relation to other policy areas, e.g. social work.





# Youth work policy essentials!

2. It should be knowledge-based.

- ➡ I.e. it should be developed and regularly updated according to relevant knowledge on young people's various living situations and needs as well as on the different forms and methods of youth work that can be used to meet aims and objectives.
- ➡ I.e. it should be regularly updated in accordance with the analysis and evaluation of outcomes in relation to measurable indicators and aims.

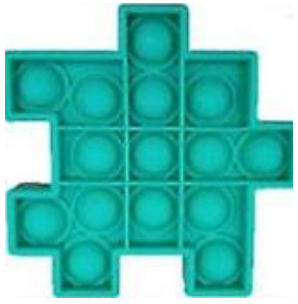




# Youth work policy essentials!

3. It should state the desired qualitative and quantitative outcomes.
  - I.e. it should be based on clear and measurable qualitative and quantitative indicators and aims regarding what shall be achieved in relation to young people's participation and learning.
  - I.e. it should contain clear procedures for follow up and evaluation of outcomes in relation to aims, costs and the target group reached.





# Youth work policy essentials!

4. It should allow youth work to be flexible and to adapt to the varying needs and ideas of young people.
  - ▶ I.e. it should govern through aims, not through rules and regulations.





# Youth work policy essentials!

5. It should be well-grounded and understood among those concerned.

➡ I.e. it should be developed in close dialogue with all relevant stakeholders, especially youth workers and young people.

And it should, which is not policy as such,

➡ be accompanied by a strategy for its realization.



# Youth work policy essentials!

A policy will only guide practice if it is fully understood by those that are to implement it.

The target group will never understand why practitioners act the way they do if they don't understand their role and aims.



# Youth work policy essentials!

Understanding policy is also a precondition for being able to take the necessary next step:

**To create an adequate and realistic strategy for its realization.**



# These are the essentials!

- ▶ Look at your own 'policy reality' from this perspective and discuss how you can approach the task of further developing your local youth work policy.
- ▶ Think of which questions to the presenters they might provoke and how you can contribute to the discussions.

The EU resolution provides a strong momentum for the creation of local youth work policies

- ▶ Let's grasp this momentum together!

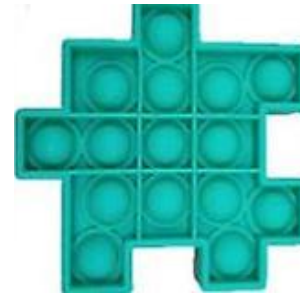
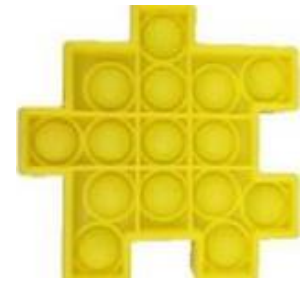




These are the essentials!



**The floor is yours!**





Thank you!

