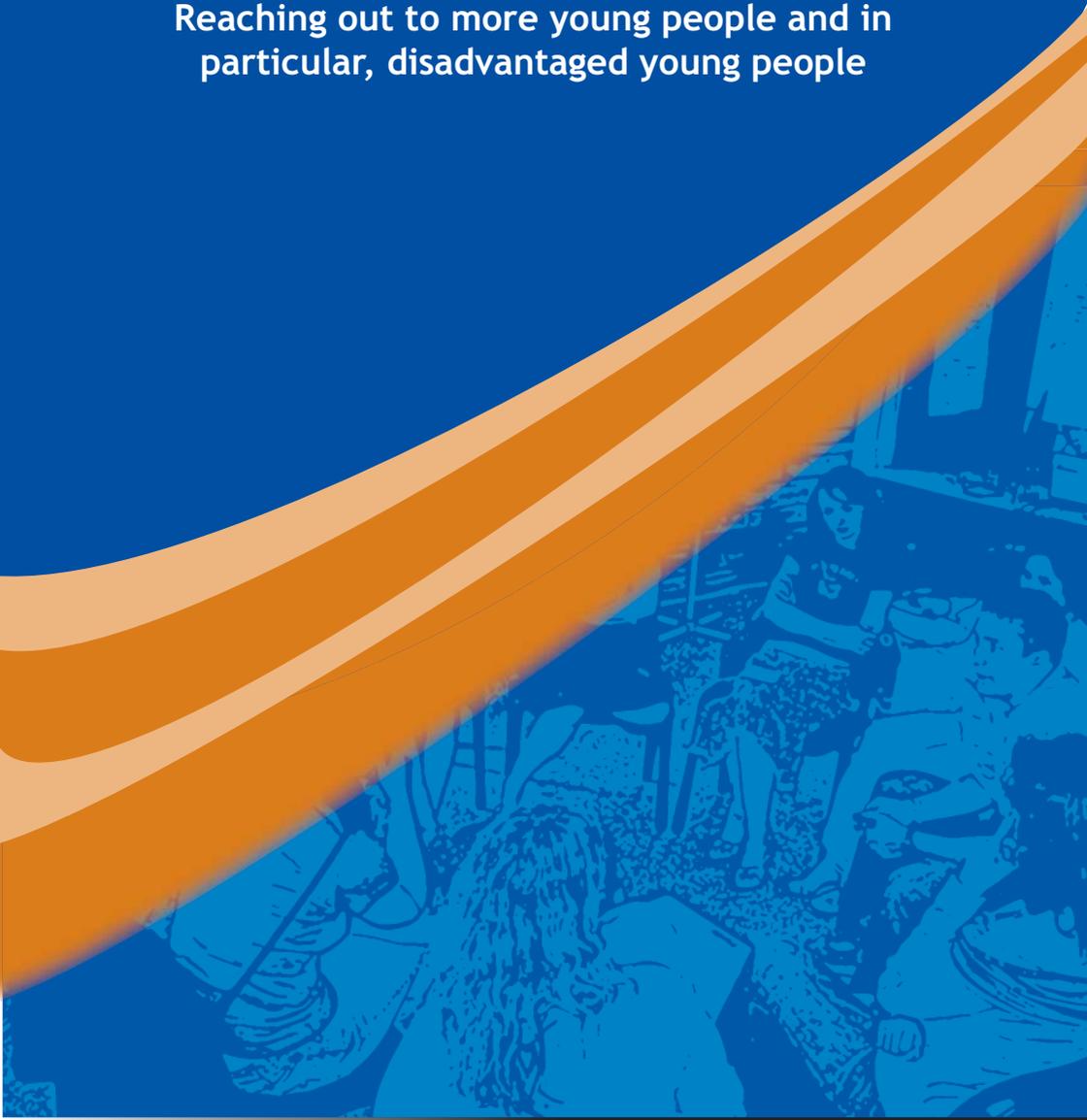




Report on Youth NGOs

Reaching out to more young people and in particular, disadvantaged young people





Education and Culture

Youth

Youth for Europe

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Report on Non-Governmental Youth Organisations (Youth NGOs) reaching out to more young people and in particular, disadvantaged young people

Tools for empowering more young people to participate in youth policy

Report by

European Youth Forum



“Civilization is the process in which one gradually increases the number of people included in the term ‘we’ or ‘us’ and at the same time decreases those labelled ‘you’ or ‘them’ until that category has no one left in it.”

Howard Winters

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INTRODUCTION

The mission of the European Youth Forum (YFJ) is to empower young people to participate actively in the shaping of Europe and the societies in which they live, and to improve the living conditions of young people as European citizens in today's world. The YFJ does not discriminate between young people who are active in Youth NGOs and those who are not.

State and/or international institutional partners of Youth NGOs see it is an important requirement of these organisations to reach out to as many different young people as possible, and this remains a constant element in the discourse referring to all the work conducted by Youth NGOs. For example, not reaching out adequately to young people who are not involved in Youth NGOs and/or young people from disadvantaged backgrounds, or failing to represent them, are often cited as reasons for the rejection of a project proposal.

The European Youth Forum firmly believes however, that Youth NGOs do not only provide young people with democratic representation, but that they also gather and structure their expertise in the policy areas that concern them. They are spaces where young citizens can experience democratic processes and serve a very strong educational role, contributing to the shaping of opinions and the development of social attitudes. Therefore, the recognition of Youth NGOs, as well as of their value and the significant role that they play - not only for the constituencies with whom they work, but also for society as a whole - is key to determining mutual trust in the working relations between institutions and Youth NGOs, at any level. This recognition must move beyond rhetoric to decisive and concerted action, and acknowledge the manifold functions that these organisations play.

BACKGROUND CONTEXT

The membership of the European Youth Forum is diverse, both in terms of interests and expertise, as well as in structure and organisational culture; nevertheless, it is firmly united through its values. This diversity is reflected in the activities and methods used to reach out to young people, which ensure inclusive activities are provided to young people all over Europe. The two pillars of the membership - these being National Youth Councils (NYCs) and International Youth NGOs (INGYOs) - unite young people from local to national and European level. Some of these organisations have direct individual elections and representation within their decision-making structures, as is the case of the European Liberal Youth (LYMEC) or the Dutch National Youth Council (DNYC) for example, while others may elect their leadership following nomination and voting based on particular internal organisational procedures.

Direct consultation and participation in policy-making are the basis of youth participation at all levels, both within Youth NGOs and in their relations with public authorities. It is in this spirit that the examples below emphasise the



work undertaken by Youth NGOs through projects and policies which create opportunities for all young people to actively participate and become involved in youth work.

AIM

The aim of this report is to serve as an explanatory tool on how youth organisations within the European Youth Forum membership, as well as their own members, are reaching out to young people not involved in Youth NGOs and to young people from disadvantaged backgrounds.

The report includes several examples from YFJ Member Organisations on their projects and, where relevant, effective policies of reaching out to individuals and disadvantaged youth.

EXAMPLES OF MEMBER ORGANISATIONS POLICIES AND PROJECTS REACHING OUT TO INDIVIDUALS AND DISADVANTAGED YOUTH

Reaching out example: WOSM- World Organisation of the Scout Movement

WOSM's work follows seven strategic priorities (see <http://scout.org/strat/indexen.shtml>), of which, priority 4 is to reach out - breaking down barriers and working with all segments of society.

This being said, WOSM members at national or community level are making a big effort to develop and implement their own strategies of reaching out. A key tool in this is the *Overture Network*, encouraging Guide and Scout associations in Europe to open up their associations to young people from ethnic and other minority groups. The participation of children and youth with different backgrounds is based on the principle that Guiding and Scouting are open to all people.

Example 1: In Belgium, three Flemish and one Walloon organisation have assessed their work with young people from ethnic minorities, and have changed their policies, education programmes, leadership training courses and ordinary activities to focus on the inclusion of minority youth.

Example 2: Scouting in the Roma Community in Slovakia. Some Roma youth leaders founded a small independent 'Club of Right Roma Boys and Girls' in 2000, with the aim of providing Roma children with more educational opportunities. These youth leaders developed an interest in the Scout Method and decided to transform their 'Club' into Roma Scouting. They entered into a contact with the leaders of the Slovak Scout Association, who were able to welcome them and listen to their expectations. The project has contributed to the increased tolerance of Roma youth in the region.

Example 3: The HAJDE project for Southeast Europe covers the entire region and aims at providing opportunities to young people at large, as well as adapt Scouting to the realities and needs of youth in the region.

The European coordination office is not directly involved in any of these examples, aside from providing support when requested. Therefore, all models are linked to the grassroots and national levels. Evidently, if an organisation aims at the inclusion of youth from disadvantaged communities, the approach is at the local level. For more info, contact WOSM at mwalker@euro.scout.org or relex@euro.scout.org.

Reaching out example: YMCA- Young Mens Christian Association

YMCA works on reaching out to disadvantaged youth, and undertakes programmes for individuals based on the *Challenge 21* document, adopted in 1998, reflected particularly in the following quote:

“Committing to work in solidarity with the poor, dispossessed, uprooted people and oppressed racial, religious and ethnic minorities.”

YMCA leaves the implementation of this commitment to its national organisations, and the European office only provides support and coordination.

Example: The YMCA branch in England is working with young homeless people, providing leadership training and support to ultimately enable the integration of these people in society. For more info, contact YMCA at jenny@ymca.int or eay@eay.org.

Reaching out example: SCI- Service Civil International

SCI works on reaching out to disadvantaged youth in several ways:

A Youth and Unemployment Working Group (YUWG) has been established to develop policy guidelines for SCI members, targeting marginalised young people; it developed a policy document on a ‘New Sheltered Placement Programme’ focused on the integration of marginalised young people in the SCI’s international work camps; these camps have special programmes for disadvantaged young people (providing mentors and all necessary support for their integrate in the camps), as well as special work camps targeting this group.

Example: VIA-Belgium (Member Organisation of SCI in Belgium) has developed a step-by-step approach to working with marginalised young people, based on the New Sheltered Placement Programme. The inclusion of disadvantaged young people in international voluntary projects is done through the following process:

Step 0: Getting in touch;

Step 1: Teenage exchanges (Bi, Tri and Multilateral Group Placements);

Step 2: Sheltered Placement Program (SPP);

Step 3: BLISS - Blissful Longer Immersion Stepping Stone.

The idea is to enable marginalised young people to gain cumulative experience through non-formal education. All actors, including institutional caretakers, social assistants or guardians, are involved in profiling the participant’s background, experience and needs. Following that, a tailor-made project is identified for the young person and constant guidance is provided throughout the entire involvement process.

For more info contact SCI at johan@sciint.org or info@sciint.org.

Reaching out example: Don Bosco Youth-Net

Based on the principles of the founder, participation through education and voluntarism have underlain the pedagogical system used by Don Bosco Youth-Net, which aims to guide and assist young people in their personal growth and transition to adulthood. By participating in education, young people contribute to society, and for Don Bosco Youth-Net, this is therefore taken as a stepping stone for full participation in society as a whole.

Some examples of projects implemented by Don Bosco Youth-Net members include:

Don Bosco Jonathan

Don Bosco Jonathan is a voluntary organisation run by the Salesians of Don Bosco. The organisation works to bridge the gap between homeless youth and their other young people. Currently, an estimated 10,000 young people are homeless in the Netherlands: a network of shelters and hostels keeps most from literally living on the street, and while they may forge bonds among themselves, these young people are often stigmatized by society - and are left feeling isolated and alone.

Don Bosco Jonathan works to foster a deeper connection between homeless young people and a network of 45 young volunteers, eager to make a difference. The work begins with educating mainstream youth about the challenges faced by homeless youth, while underscoring their shared humanity. This is achieved through a series of publications written by volunteers and homeless youth, and through a variety of creative events.

For those wishing to get involved in a more substantive, “hands on” way, Don Bosco Jonathan offers a host of volunteer opportunities. Each month, volunteers, aged 17 to 30, engage in group activities - skating events, bowling, sporting, beach outings, etc. - where they interact with their homeless peers. Those willing to get involved more, go once a week to a hostel to share time together while eating and playing games. Others serve as a buddy to a homeless youth. The buddy pairs regularly go to the movies, museums, parks, or simply socialize. The goal is to have fun together based on values of shared respect and equality.

In recent years, Don Bosco Jonathan has been focusing on work with pregnant girls and young mothers who are homeless. The added responsibility of parenthood can often have a negative effect on their social networks, with young mothers left feeling isolated. Don Bosco Jonathan therefore organises a monthly activity for young mothers and pregnant girls, the focus of which is recreational - for both the mothers and their children: while the volunteers take care of the children, the mothers can socialise together. Don Bosco Jonathan also organises theme-days for young mothers and pregnant girls, which are bimonthly workshops on topics such as baby massage, language stimulation or first-aid for children: the topics for these workshops are suggested by the mothers.

The MAHALI-project

Mahali means ‘exchange’ in Swahili and since 2004 Jeugdendienst Don Bosco has been working on the Mahali-project - a project that focuses on Don Bosco playgrounds in the DR Congo and Rwanda. It is a partnership project between young people in Belgium and young people in Africa - all of whom want to give meaning to their lives - irrespective of where they come from.

The project began in 2003, when five young Belgians wanted to go to Africa to volunteer and do some training. An encounter day between young Belgians and young Central-Africans living in Belgium (primarily Congolese and Rwandese) was then organised. The project aimed at promoting positive mutual perceptions between the two groups. During the summer of 2003 the five volunteers then travelled to the DR Congo for five weeks, and to Rwanda for eight: with each volunteer working at a Don Bosco playground.

Since the organisation focuses on playgrounds (camps) and training courses for facilitators/ animateurs’, the positive experiences of the returning volunteers were fed into a working group which developed the Mahali project. The result is a project in which Belgian and African young people create playgrounds where the child takes a central place and where it can grow into a socially integrated adult. *Dialogue* between the different young people and those responsible for the playgrounds is important.

Skala - The Bus of Joy

“Never wait for the child but come to it,” is the philosophy of the Bus of Joy - a tool aimed at reaching out to young people and at lowering the barriers for young people to take part and get involved in civic projects. The bus is a mobile unit in which two different types of activity are organised for young people between the ages of ten and eighteen: weekly activities in Fužine and Nove Jarše and occasional activities for young people in different regions of Slovenia Today, one social worker and three volunteers regularly accompany the bus, which boasts a hot drinks machine, dartboard, table football, a table, sofa and literature on various topics.

As it is a mobile unit, the Bus of Joy can be used for various activities in response to specific demands from schools or youth organisations. It can easily access neighbourhoods that have no venues suitable to host youth events, and is the only means to provide a meeting place in the evening for young adults. The bus also serves as a tool for promoting Skala’s activities and image to, among others, institutions and young people.

Don Bosco Youth-Net members in Austria target disadvantaged youth, and the following are examples of concrete projects:

Example 1: The Abraham youth hostel is a home for fifteen unaccompanied minors between 14 and 18 years of age, all of whom are or were asylum seekers



from African or Arab countries. The project provides German language training and helps these minors to integrate into Austrian society, however, challenges still remain in ensuring access to higher education.

Example 2: The Tobias-project targets asylum seekers, families, children and young people living in Burgenland - a rural area of Austria, which lacks infrastructure. A group of volunteers meets with the target groups twice a week, supporting them to integrate in their new environments. The project uses non-formal and intercultural learning methods.

Other activities aim at helping young adult asylum-seekers and refugees; to educate and train students about the situation of migrants and refugees in Austria, and to fight for an improvement in the basic conditions for asylum seekers in Austria - particularly unaccompanied minors. An annual project report (in German) can be found at: http://www.donbosco.at/fileadmin/oeref/pdf/Jahresbericht_Don_Bosco_Fluechtlingswerk.pdf.

For more info, contact Don Bosco Youth-Net in Austria at fluechtlingswerk@donbosco.at or in Europe at donbosconet@skynet.be.

Reaching out example: ALLIANCE - Alliance of European Voluntary Service Organisations

ALLIANCE has made reaching out to disadvantaged youth a priority since 1998, though upon its establishment, the organisation did not target any particular constituency, but aimed at providing exchange to young people and adults for either short or long-term periods. In 1998, the European Commission asked ALLIANCE to facilitate the access of young people with disadvantage (the concept used at the time) to exchanges. In 2002, the ALLIANCE General Assembly decided to make this a permanent policy: Access for All.

This policy is implemented at the national level, with different Member Organisations providing schemes for the professional or social inclusion of young people from disadvantaged backgrounds, and physically or mentally challenged young people.

Example: At the international level, ALLIANCE supported the exchange of almost 200 volunteers between 1999-2004, with the support of EVS funding. The funding was used for three issues:

- Providing support to sending organisations for training the selected participants;
- Providing support to hosting organisations to ensure that all special needs are addressed;
- The organisation of a post-exchange collective camp project for volunteers.

However, this project ended as EVS became more bureaucratic, and most Member Organisations did not find it possible to adapt to particular project proposals.



Although the European Commission was satisfied with the implementation of the project, and despite the requests from ALLIANCE to ease the application procedures, this was not done.

Currently ALLIANCE has launched an internal project focused on increasing the participation of disadvantaged youth, however, the project is much less effective, considering that Member Organisations have to find funding to cover all the expenses themselves.

For more information, contact ALLIANCE at international@unarec.org or alliance@alliance-network.org.

Reaching out example: DNYC - Dutch National Youth Council

The mission statement of DNYC emphasises that the organisation acts as an interest group on behalf of all youth organisations and youth in the area of youth policy. Being an interest group for all youth organisations and youth automatically implies the responsibility to adequately represent of disadvantaged youth. It also implies promoting the participation of these young people in decision-making bodies or processes.

The activities of the DNYC are mostly project based and directed towards 'autonomous' or 'independent' youth, meaning: young people who are not part of a youth organisation and are therefore not represented in some way through (member) organisations. The main goal is to let the youth participate, and ultimately if interested, join DNYC Member Organisations.

For every project or decision made, the mission statement of the Dutch NYC is used as a benchmark. The Dutch NYC does not have any other policy documents or positions specifically dealing with the issue of disadvantaged youth.

To assure the adequate representation and participation of minority and/or emancipation groups within the Dutch NYC itself, the organisation actively tries to involve organised minority and/or emancipation youth organisations through membership of the Dutch NYC. Examples of minority and/ or emancipation Member Organisations are:

- SAMAH (Foundation for single under-aged asylum seekers Humanitas)
- TANS (Towards A New Start - Moroccan Network organisation)
- CiJO (Centre Information and Documentation on Israel Youth Organisation)
- Expreso (Dutch Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual Youth Organisation)
- HSFN (Hindu Student Forum the Netherlands)
- JOPLA (organisation for physically disabled young people)

Most of the work of the DNYC is project based. Projects dealing with disadvantaged youth are mainly focussed on social and/or economically disadvantaged youngsters. Often the target group are youngsters following pre-vocational "VMBO" secondary education; according to the Dutch government, completing

this form of education does not supply a sufficient starting qualification for the labour market. Example of projects reaching out to these youngsters are:

Ik ben geweldig

<http://www.ikbengeweldig.nl>

This is a tour of higher education and pre-vocational secondary schools as part of a campaign to encourage young people to engage in voluntary work. During interactive workshops, non profit organisations present themselves and show young people the possibilities to volunteer with their organisations.

Youth 8 Battle

The “Youth 8 battle”: the “Youth 8 battle” was organised for young ‘urban’ youth (mostly without sufficient starting qualifications for the labour market). The main goal was not only to inform educated youngsters about the Millennium Goals (MDGs), but all young people. To communicate the message of the MDGs in an attractive way, MDG 6 (HIV/AIDS) was selected. The young people were challenged to show their skills during a rap battle in a local club in The Hague, the theme for the raps was HIV/AIDS.

Pimp my Block

<http://www.jeugdraad.nl/pimpmyblock/>

The project title refers to an MTV programme popular with young people, and it reaches out to socially and economically disadvantaged youngsters. It runs in the deprived areas in four different cities in the Netherlands. Young people between 14 and 23 years old living in districts where few activities are organized for them, are challenged to make plans on how to ‘pimp’ [improve] their area. They can do this by organizing a festival, a sport event, or a place to socialise. The best plan gets rewarded with € 5000 to execute the plan.

Youth welfare work

This project (<http://www.lcfj.nl/jongeren/index.php>) coaches and supports the youth council that represents young people within judicial institutions or young clients dealing with other institutions due to their social, economic, or psychological problems. The Dutch NYC helps these young people within the council to represent themselves in several official commissions and forums, related to youth welfare.

Youth panel

<http://www.jeugdraadpanel.nl>

This project researches the opinion of young people between 12 and 20 on current social issues. Four times a year a different subject is chosen, approximately 600 youngsters from 10 different schools participate by completing questionnaires. To ensure the adequate representation of Dutch youth, 60 % of the respondents

are pre-vocational “VMBO” secondary education students, equating to the percentage of all Dutch young people participating in this form of education. The latest research topic was sexuality and tolerance, and more specifically, homosexual emancipation in schools. Also through research, the Dutch NYC tries to include minority and/or emancipations topics.

For more info, contact DNYC at charlottedijkstra@jeugdraad.nl or info@jeugdraad.nl.

Reaching out example: LYMEC- European Liberal Youth

LYMEC’s Manifesto guarantees the openness of the organisation to individuals and all groups of young people. The statutes clearly provide for individuals to become members, and enjoy full rights in LYMEC along with the Member Organisations.

LYMEC has two pillars of membership: Member Organisations and the Individual Membership Section (IMS) open to individuals. One can become a member by completing a form, and paying a 10 Euro annual fee. This application is approved by the bureau. Individual members share the same rights as Member Organisations, but have to organise themselves. They have internal elections to send delegates to the Congress, depending on the number of individual members, they can send a delegation of several people. The number of delegates from the IMS depends on the membership figures of the IMS. The larger the IMS, the more delegates that can be elected. LYMEC states that the Individual Members Section is the key element for LYMEC to profit from the experience and knowledge of people from many different backgrounds. Furthermore, these people share the experiences they gain through engagement in LYMEC with others in civil society and thus spread liberal ideas and promote LYMEC. The IMS must be attractive to people who cannot rely on being integrated into LYMEC by a national party.

In addition, the organisation has the *LYMEC Disability Protocol* which guarantees that no-one will be discriminated against if they apply for activities, governing bodies or working structures in the organisation. The *Disability Protocol* states that:

“LYMEC recognises and values diversity amongst its internal organs and members and is committed to creating an inclusive environment that ensures that equal opportunities are available to all its members and staff, including those with a disability.

LYMEC seeks to provide those who have a disability (whether temporary or permanent) with the opportunity to participate in a safe, equitable, discrimination and harassment free environment. Furthermore LYMEC aims to make certain that people with a disability can contribute to and participate in its events and activities.”

The Protocol reemphasises the values underlined in the Manifesto (see http://www.lymec.org/modules.php?op=modload&name=PN_Content&file=index&req=viewarticle&artid=25).

The members of LYMEC consider that there is no need to develop further procedures to guarantee the participation to other categories of disadvantaged youth, as that is clearly stated in the *Manifesto* and is upheld in the existence and daily running of the organisation.

For more information, contact LYMEC at office@lymec.org

Reaching out example: LNU - Norwegian Youth Council

LNU does not identify target groups as disadvantaged, therefore it has no specific policy on this. However, in 2006 LNU launched the *Open and Inclusive* project, targeting minority youth. A Tool-kit was developed, guiding organisations on the inclusiveness of minority youth, and six pilot projects were initiated by Member Organisations. The T-Kit will be translated into English and distributed in 2007.

The Working Group on North-South Development (global cooperation) produced a video on the situation of children and youth both in refugee and Internally Displaced People (IDP) camps in Uganda, as well as in reception camps for asylum seekers in Norway.

Open and inclusive organisations

The Norwegian Youth Council (LNU) initiated the Open and inclusive organisations project as one of its two main priorities for the period 2004-2006.

The project was built on the following premises:

Organisations will not be diverse if this is not taken seriously at the grassroots level. It is at the grassroots level where potential members become actual members.

There is too little knowledge in this field, therefore the work carried out must be well documented.

LNU can supervise and support the work to create open and inclusive organisations - but the work has to be carried out by the Member Organisations themselves.

Pilot organisations

Six pilot organisations within the membership of LNU were appointed, involving at least one local branch and the central body of the organisation responsible for the project. The participating organisations were diverse: the Scouts, school bands, queer youth, party political youth organisations, and cultural and religious groups. As the campaign 'All different - All equal' uses a broad definition of diversity, the Open and inclusive organisations project looks specifically at how the Member Organisations of LNU can approach children and youth from minority backgrounds.

Milestone: Tool kit

The project started in 2005 and is still being carried out within the membership. However an important milestone was achieved as a representative of the Government, the former Secretary General of the Labour Party Youth (one of the pilot organisations), launched the new tool kit for open and inclusive organisations in October 2006.

The toolkit builds on the experiences of the six pilot organisations. Concrete methods and advice on how the rest of the membership of LNU could become more diverse make the toolkit useful: the tool kit will be translated into English in 2007.

Some results

An individual from a school band association started up several new branches by sitting in her school yard and attracting fellow students by playing her trumpet. Queer Youth Norway works with groups suffering multiple-discrimination, and is continuing to learn new things in the process. The Labour Party Youth has learned when and how to organise meetings and how to become more diverse - and in the participating local branch, the majority is now the minority: there are now more members from minority backgrounds than ethnic Norwegians - which is a better mirror of the actual municipality.

Six new pilot organisations will be selected to implement the project, while the first six will focus on diversifying their leaderships.

For more information, please contact LNU at kristian.fjellanger@lnu.no or lnu@lnu.no

Reaching out example: ATD Fourth World

ATD Fourth World Youth brings together young Europeans who are committed to the fight against poverty, social exclusion and inequality and who come from a wide range of social and cultural backgrounds. Members of ATD Fourth World Youth network are active at local, national and European level and take part in a wide variety of different initiatives and activities. As well as tackling poverty and exclusion, these actions also encourage and promote social cohesion and active citizenship among young people.

ATD Fourth World Youth continues to strive to provide opportunities for young people to meet, get to know one another and work together in informal exchanges. Such exchanges continually help young people to become more aware of their human and social values.

As an anti-poverty organisation, ATD Fourth World does not specifically make a distinction regarding disadvantaged youth, but through its work, targets the poorest population, among which is youth. Key to how ATD Fourth World

works is the inclusion of project beneficiaries from the initial design phase to drafting, implementing and monitoring the projects - thus they are all fully *participatory*.

Examples or actions and activities undertaken by ATD Fourth World Youth:

European Session organised by ATD Fourth World Youth: Work - the meaning and reality for young people battling to overcome social exclusion, a seminar held in April 2005 in Heerlen (Netherlands).

30 young participants from partners of ATD Fourth World's European youth network who are active in Germany, France, the Netherlands, Belgium, Slovakia, Luxembourg and the UK, came together to gain an understanding of the importance of work and training in overcoming exclusion. The preparatory work consisted in participatory and qualitative research with young people, which enabled participants and other young people in the ATD Fourth World youth network to prepare the basis for the seminar. The seminar was based on discussions of the reality of young people's social situation, what it means to search for work and training, and in what ways their efforts in this area can be better supported. The seminar enabled many young people facing poverty and social exclusion to participate and make a recognised contribution to the debate on social integration through employment, and also to empower youth workers working with this target group through a better understanding of this subject from the perspective of young people themselves.

Youth groups

In Luxembourg, ATD Fourth World runs a youth group which brings together young people from different social backgrounds. Such youth groups are built on the basis of mutual respect, tolerance and acceptance.

The participation of the most disadvantaged young people is at the heart of the organisation's ethos but first, it is necessary to reach out to and engage them. This requires a long-term commitment to try and meet young people through street work (e.g. regular cultural activities in deprived neighbourhoods, street libraries etc) and links with local services (social cafes, homeless hostels, housing offices etc.)

Outreach projects

Since 1985, summer street festivals have been organised, during school holidays, in numerous deprived neighbourhoods in Europe. In 2005, around 50 summer street festivals took place in France, Belgium, Spain, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

Festival activities are mainly carried out in neighbourhoods where, during the course of the year, members of ATD Fourth World, a majority of whom are young students, run street library programmes. Summer street festivals involve and

reach the whole community, with activities designed for children, young people and their parents, as well as other adults. By bringing together a genuine cross section of the local community to share their knowledge, talents and skills, these street festivals represent a way to create together a collective participation built on the principle of inclusion. Members of the public, notably young people, run all the workshops in a voluntary capacity; the only requirement is that they are prepared to come and share their knowledge and passions with others.

International youth camps

International youth camps, organised by ATD Fourth World vary in duration from 4 days to 2 weeks. They are held in several different European countries: in France, Germany, Switzerland, and Belgium, with around twenty young people participating. These youth camps enable young people from different nationalities and from different social backgrounds to meet one another, learn about the fight against poverty, think about how to get more involved and consider what it means to be European and build an inclusive Europe.

One team in France organised their youth camps around:

- Young people who are socially excluded
- Young people from other backgrounds who have already taken part in an action with ATD Fourth World (street library, summer street festivals, etc)
- Young people who do not know ATD Fourth World but who would like to know more about the fight against poverty.

Through hosting the two youth camps, the team welcomed over 50 young people from the Netherlands, France, Germany and Slovakia, Luxembourg, Spain and Switzerland.

For more information, contact ATD Fourth World at swelf2005@yahoo.fr or atdint@atd-quartmonde.org.

Reaching out example: ALLIANSSI- Finnish Youth Cooperation Allianssi

ALLIANSSI does not have a specific policy regarding disadvantaged youth, and through its activities, aims at reaching all the country's young people. In the framework of the 'All Different - All Equal' Campaign, some aspects of reaching out to disadvantaged youth have been addressed at the national, regional and local levels - both by Youth NGOs and municipalities. To ensure that good practice is continued, discussions on integrating inclusive methods into the daily life and work of the organisations also took place.

In addition, as the campaign is taking place during the pre-election period (Finland will have Parliamentary Elections in 2007), ALLIANSSI has identified eight aims to be addressed by the Youth programme of the future government, among which is equality and education for all citizens - including minority youth. Furthermore,

ALLIANSSI demands better education, and better investment in access to housing both for young people with disabilities and for youth from ethnic minorities.

For more information, contact Allianssi at rauna.nerelli@alli.fi or vaihto@alli.fi.

Reaching out example: ÖJV - Austrian National Youth Council

The Austrian National Youth Council has been running the *Genderize* project for several years, and is now in the process of beginning a second implementation.

The project's main aims/objectives are:

- To encourage and empower young women to engage in civic life
- To empower young women to assume positions of responsibility
- To strengthen women's networks
- To promote intergenerational dialogue
- To develop participants', as well as the public's, awareness of gender and other equality issues.

The participants are young women ('mentees') between 18 and 30 years of age, from various backgrounds and who share an interest in politics in a broad sense. Within the project, each mentee has a mentor for one year, and in total there are 20 to 25 mentoring pairs. To date, successful women from parliamentary parties, various NGOs, the administrative sector and religious denominations have participated as mentors, representing a cross-section of politics in the broadest sense and reflecting a wide variety of political functions. Among them were the Minister for Health and Women, the State Secretary for Youth, who became a Minister during the project, the subsequent second President of the National Council, a high-ranking UN employee, the Chairperson of the Catholic Women's Movement, a Protestant superintendent and the Press Secretary for the Muslim Community.

As varied as the mentors were, so, too, were the mentees: women from different parts of Austria; between 18 and 30; in full-time education; in apprenticeships; in employment; and with or without experience in children's or youth organisations. Over the period of one year the mentees had the opportunity to get to know a woman with political experience, to shadow her, and to get a look behind the scenes.

The Austrian National Youth Council (ÖJV) organises the entire project, searches for the mentors and mentees, and matches the pairs - in addition, it organises five project-related events during the year, and supports the project participants.

The results of an evaluation of the first round of the project made it possible for the program to be appropriately adapted, contributing to an improvement in the quality of the programme.

The mentee peer groups in the second round were grouped according to topics, which the participants dealt with over the entire mentoring year: structural

injustices; (women's and men's) education; work/life balance; career planning and women's networks / men's groups. By the end of 2006, the result of this work was a catalogue of recommendations, which provides the basis for a position paper addressing the central concern of the mentoring project: essentially, the creation of a general framework of what young women need to become actively and creatively involved in the concerns of their society.

About half of the participants are involved in member organisations of ÖJV, thereby the project helps to develop the awareness of women's and gender equality issues within the organisations themselves.

The project was a good starting point for dealing with gender equality issues within ÖJV. In the meantime a gender mainstreaming process is taking place, which is, for example, affecting language use, and which has also led to a quota system for the elected board, to ensure the participation of both young women and young men.

As the coordinating body of the 'All Different - All Equal' campaign in Austria, ÖJV used this opportunity to make the issues of diversity, participation and the inclusion of young people from minorities, priority issues in its work in 2007. Young people from ethnic minorities are particularly disadvantaged in Austria and the newly developed policy papers of the national youth council address the need for measures to realise their active social inclusion (in the education system, labour market, immigration/citizenship law); lobbying in this regard will be undertaken in the framework of the campaign. Disadvantaged young people will hopefully be touched by all the campaign activities, and ÖJV is establishing networks with organisations who work specifically with disadvantaged youth.

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