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Officehours:
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Development of Quality Standards amongst youth organisations

- ❖ *A sub-theme within this topic is the mobilisation and active participation of young people in the development of these quality standards*

UK, from the 2nd of October to 9th of October + arrivals and departures

The working language will be English.

Project summary

'The development of quality standards for the implementation, evaluation and recognition of non-formal education / learning.' (Priorities and programmes of the youth sector of the council of Europe 2003 to 2005, EYF website)

Whilst also contributing to the priority of:

'Promoting the participation of young people in the formulation and implementation of youth policies.'

The aim of this seminar will be to provide motivated young people, as well as youth organisation co-workers, with a forum through which they can examine the nature and role of quality standards practices in youth voluntary work. A sub-theme within this topic will be the mobilisation and active participation of young people in the development of these quality standards.

By the end of this seminar the participants will have collectively:

- furthered their understanding of the importance of developing quality standards practices in the voluntary sector and the benefits and challenges of integrating young people into this process.
- identified some key areas where quality standards policies are required - drawing on their own experiences, perspectives and, where possible, their knowledge of existing organisational cultures.
- produced a thorough draft of a single 'pilot' policy and an organisational strategy for implementing this policy - paying special attention to areas where young people can contribute to its effectiveness.

- collectively drafted a strategy which will give young people a key role in the development, implementation and monitoring of future quality standards initiatives.

Long-term Outcomes:

- Organisations have developed quality standards policies developed for key areas of their work.
- Organisations are skilled to mobilise and integrate young people in the development and implementation of quality standards initiatives.

Methodology

The seminar will include an expert-led introduction to the issues surrounding quality standards policies and their implementation. Quality standards issues, challenges and opportunities will be explored in greater depth by participants through a brainstorm of experiences and perspectives, followed by mixed group-work role-plays and follow-up presentations. Participants will then work with the expert as a large group to draw-out key learning points and themes whilst acknowledging differences in perspectives – organisational, cultural and amongst youth co-workers and young people.

Participants will visit a local social project that hosts European volunteers to gather information and investigate the varied perspectives on a practical example of a recently established quality standards policy.

Participants will split into work-groups and will utilise their learning to innovate a single quality standards policy and strategy for implementation, monitoring and evaluation around an issue directly related to young volunteers. Participants will share and discuss each others' policies and examine the effectiveness and appropriateness of particular processes in differing contexts.

Through an expert-led introduction followed by work-group discussions and full group presentations participants will explore the challenges and opportunities of involving young people in the developing and maintaining of quality standards policies. Taking relevant opportunities and working in mixed groups participants will then be asked to generate ideas as to how organisations can practically mobilise young people to take part in such initiatives. With groups sharing their ideas and presenting their strategy at the seminars' 'recruitment fair' session.

Participants: 25

Age range: 20-35

Profile of the participants and recruitment procedure:

The participants should be young active people and co-workers in youth organisations primarily volunteer organisations. The participants should be active in youth work/ youth exchange field and working as board members, as staff, or directly with volunteers/exchange students in their organisation and thereby be involved in youth participation and setting quality standards within their organisation. Invitations are circulated through the networks of AVSO, the networks of the ICYE European Association partners in Western European and CEE countries and the ICYE Europe's national members as well as representatives of the European Youth Forum.

Total number: 30 including the prep-team (leadership team) – 25 participants