

# **Minutes, Board Meeting March 1-2 2018 in Antwerp**

## Participants:

Jonas Agdur (KEKS) chair	Hans Migchielsen ('s-Hertogenbosch)
Massimo Capano (Cinisello Balsamo)	Henny Wibbelink ('s-Hertogenbosch)
Lasse Siurala (Kanuuna)	Georgi Simeonov (Stara Zagora)
Diana Pettersson (KC)	Jenny Danielsson (KC)
Babis Papaioannou, (Tripolis)	Ellen de Grauwe (VVJ),
Tarja Marks (Munich)	Dimitris Georgiadis (Thessaloniki),

## Guests:

Maria Paschalidou (Thessaloniki) – nr 8. The upcoming 7<sup>th</sup> ICY conference in Thessaloniki  
Zoe Chatziantoniou (Thessaloniki) – nr 8. The upcoming 7<sup>th</sup> ICY conference in Thessaloniki  
Lieve Caluwaerts (Ministry Flanders) – nr 7. Evaluation of the conference in Leuven

### 1. **Welcome and presentations.**

Jonas Agdur wished everybody welcome and there was a short round of presentations

### 2. **Election of secretary for the meeting**

Henny Wibbelink was elected secretary for the meeting

### 3. **Follow up on last board meeting 2017-10-05/06**

There were no comments regarding the minutes from the last meeting

### 4. **Reports from board members – what's going on at home?**

Please see the end of these minutes

### 5. **The Erasmus+ strategic partnership on indicators**

The working group is at the point of finishing. A film has been made in which work group members answer questions about the booklet. Deadline for material is March 9.

The booklet will be finalised, VVJ will organise layout and printing. It will be translated into German and French. Italy needs translation, in time for local event in May.

All participants have to organise a local/national dissemination event.

An agreement is made that the European dissemination event will take place in connection to the Local goes Local conference in Cascais, Portugal.

Jonas finishes the booklet, sends the final version to the Board.

Finland will use the (Swedish) logbook, Iceland might follow. This kind of data collection is interesting on the European level. Anyone interested in testing, can contact KEKS. You pay for access to the system.

### 6. **Erasmus+ project – job shadowing and study visits.**

The project will not be supervised by KEKS, participants must take their own responsibility. Start reading and reacting to emails!

Massimo adds they use the project to elaborate activities, young people are actively involved.

### 7. **Evaluation of the conference in Leuven**

131 participants from less different countries than hoped for. 20 participants did not show up but costs were made. Also 33 extra Flemish participants, less than expected.

Total costs were higher than previous conferences, due to hotel and catering costs. Also, high costs for booklet, films, posters (the Look and feel). Total budget was 68.000 euro.

Fees covered 1/3 of the costs, rest was paid by VVJ, Leuven and the Flemish government.

Evaluation from 33 participants. There is high average score on all topics so the organisation can be satisfied. There is a need for more updated information on the program, the workshops and field visits. Compliments for the booklet with a personalised program. It was necessary to have many people present, to solve problems. The first day was a long day for many participants.

There was a good balance in the program. Workshops by young people were appreciated, like the network sessions. Some workshops were too full with good practices, more time to discuss is wanted. Some more free time during the program would have been nice, e.g. in coffee breaks. Good food is important. Good keynote speakers. Field visits are an added value but mind the time for travelling. Conclusion: strategic goals were reached, with a few remarks. Unfortunately, key persons got new jobs after the conference, therefore some things were a bit problematic afterwards. It was good to have an emergency plan. There are some learning points. The fact that there were three organising organisations complicated things. About 25 people helped organising. It was more work than expected. Three days is right. A red line in a program is important, with a good balance.

Conclusion: well done!  
All texts and information are available for Thessaloniki.

## 8. The upcoming 7<sup>th</sup> InterCity-conference in Thessaloniki

Dimitris presents a powerpoint presentation.  
Suggested: linked with CoE recommendation and Europe Goes Local, digital youth work and diversity.

From the discussion:  
But also attention to managing digital youth work; organisational guidelines. And new regulation on privacy, data protection? But perhaps we should not take them too seriously.  
Study visits? Quality? Online youth work? There are practical examples from Estonia and Greece.  
The target group is not youth workers but people responsible for organising youth work. Tip: think about how to use participants. Cross-sectional experiences? Youth participation? How to interest the network? How to interest youth workers? And politicians?  
Sustainability in relation to youth work, this is a global programme. Perhaps we should not take the theme too strict, there is room for relevant other topics in seminars.  
Not too many speeches but a lot of interaction and exchange of ideas. Seminars should not be speeches.

Dates: 8-10 October or 15-17 October are possible. Decision: 8-10 Oct.  
There must be an option to come earlier and/or stay longer.  
Arrangements in another hotel are possible. In the weekend, there is a cultural festival, free tickets can be provided (!).  
Arrival-departures: Times of arrival might cause problems since the airport is small. An alternative is to fly to Athens and then take a local flight to Thessaloniki.  
Draft program: Monday afternoon – Wednesday morning. Wednesday afternoon for Greek participants. Program is similar to Leuven. Keynote speeches are 40 minutes max.  
If study visits are difficult to organise, we might work with e.g. life streaming. Seminars should consist of 30 minute presentation plus 60 minutes discussion etc.  
Speed dating is nice but offer also time to talk. Have 30 minutes coffee breaks.  
Hotel: Best facilities for rooms and conference rooms 3 kilometres outside the centre. Free shuttle bus upon request. There is a more expensive alternative in the centre. Then no buses are needed. We do not feel a somewhat higher fee is a problem.  
Participation fees: Proposal; between 180- 260. Depending on single/double room, what hotel is chosen, what date is chosen.  
Rates for early birds and late.  
Number of participants: Between 120-150. Meaning 5-6 parallel workshops.  
Timeline: Start registration as early as possible, draft program is ready end

of April. Start registration from May 15. Deadline last of August, then hotel can be informed about definite numbers.  
7<sup>th</sup> InterCity Youth Conference. An attractive title has to be found.

Title of conference

Interesting: speech by professor Lindner on Europe Goes Local congress on interesting local politicians on (funding) youth work. [www.europegoeslocal.eu](http://www.europegoeslocal.eu).

We install a work group assisting Thessaloniki to work out the programme. Lasse, Jonas and Massimo volunteer.

Ideas for seminars and key note speeches welcome from us all.

#### **9. Information regarding the “ad hoc high level task force” for the implementation of the CoE recommendation on youth work. – Jonas**

Jonas attended the first meeting which was merely a getting-to-know-each other. One of the conclusions is that the EC and CoE should communicate more or better. No decisions are taken by this group, their suggestions are taken to both EC and CoE. The goal is to help implementing the recommendations. The task force will work for 5 years.

Finland and Sweden have had the recommendations translated. Translation is in the recommendation, approved by the government. After translation, it must be altered to make it attractive for youth workers. The Task Force is installed to make sure it's used.

Tip: find out whether it's done in your country and remind them.

#### **10. Information and consultation regarding the Europe Goes Local project**

There was a conference in Ljubljana in June 2017. The conclusion of the steering group was that we should work on a Charter on Local Youth Work. 24 countries are active, they have now (since yesterday) guidelines for the consultation process.

Jonas will send the text of the Charter.

#### **11. Organisational matters**

Invoices for the membership fees for 2017 have been sent, most have paid. The sum is not used yet.

All members are mentioned on the website. We have to make sure the site is filled with new information. Information from members differs.

Reminder to have some booklets with you and hand them out.

We need to be more active in promoting membership of ICY. Some people seem to think they are members when they come to a conference.

Massimo will work out an idea about a stand about membership for the next conference.

#### **12. Planning of future activities.**

Jonas did a training about the Handbook in Bratislava.

ICY does also the job shadowing project and the dissemination project of the booklet. But probably this is not well known. And of course we have our conferences.

The basis of ICY is to encourage youth participation. Could we start with articles, ideas etc. before the conference? In the conference we could elaborate on that, perhaps by working groups. Get better at documenting what conferences have learned. The idea is that engagement is enhanced before and after the conference.

We need more attention for the final documents of the conference. They have to be distributed and used.

There should be more focus on cooperation after the conference. People meet in the conference. What to do with these contacts and with the ideas of the participants? How can we encourage networking?

The conference must be seen as the starting point of more activities. We have to make sure there is enough opportunity to get information before the conference, speed date and collaborate in activities during and after the conference.

### **13. Consultation process on Charter on Local youth work**

Europe Goes Local is the strategic partnership of Erasmus+ National agencies and their partners. According to the recommendations of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Youth Work Convent, an expert group starts consultation in order to come to a Charter on local youth work. Jonas is one of the members of the expert group.

Jonas hands out information on the process.

In general, we agree on the text and on the process. Some remarks: The vision in the document needs improvement, they should be a summary.

Next, we have a discussion on the concreteness of a charter; how will it actually be used? Will it change things, also concerning budgets?

The target group is the municipality, helping them to develop youth work. It might also help to establish what is youth work and what is not.

### **14. ICY membership in Anna Lindh foundation**

It is a Swedish foundation, seated in Egypt. Targets at connection between Europe-Arab. You have to choose a national network. There is no fee. It is in agreement with CoE policy. Once a year there is a call for funding. There is a youth network. You can choose your level of activity, there are no mandatory activities.

ICY can register as a non-profit organisation.

Decision: apply for membership. In what country? Best in Sweden, through KC (Diana).

### **15. General Assembly of InterCity Youth support organisation. (See also separate agenda.)**

An NGO must have a yearly General Assembly.

Jonas will take care of minutes. There are no elections now, except the function of auditor. We elect Diana. Programme: dates we set and the conference.

Membership fee: 1 euro.

### **16. Next board meeting (place and date) and timetable for other activities.**

This is the last board meeting paid for by the project. We need one more meeting before the conference, in June.

We are welcome in Tripolis (fly to Athens, travel to Corinth, then 1 hour by car), accommodation offered by the city of Tripolis. June 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. Babis will make arrangements on March 5<sup>th</sup>.

### **Closing at 14.45**

Jonas wishes all members success with dissemination of booklets of indicators. He will send some material on this.

### **Reports from board members – what's going on at home?**

#### **Massimo:**

We are involved in a lot of European projects, e.g. with Eurodesk. There is a new magazine. Event in May on youth policy. We do dissemination of the ICY booklet, involvement in the job shadowing project. There is a structured dialogue with the national agency, helping with the process of consultation. Event in February in which ICY was mentioned as the most important partner in Europe goes local. New website to help develop youth work in Italy. European Commission in Milan organizes a conference, Massimo will attend on behalf of Cinisello Balsamo but also on ICY. National agency asked to take part in several projects, nice development.

#### **Henny:**

There were two national conferences; one with youth workers and one with policy makers and managers of youth work organisations. After this we tried to make a strategic plan for 4 years but this is not going to happen.

The Handbook is being translated and adjusted to the Dutch situation. There is a backing group with youth work organisations and youth workers. The aim is to get a shortened, modular and very attractive handbook which will seduce youth workers to really use it.

When the material is ready, we will carry out pilots in a number of municipalities. Training sessions and meetings are part of the implementation process. End of March: Meeting with relevant national partners, in 's-Hertogenbosch. We will make an appointment with Flemish partners (VVJ?) about using the translated handbook in Flanders.

On national and local level the central theme is: transformation. From care to prevention.

There is a new government and a new minister. Local elections are in 3 weeks.

There is a law for youth care, not for youth work. So, advocacy should be on local level, helped by national level. We try to connect. Two tools or documents will help us: the Handbook and an upcoming report on business cases on youth work. The idea behind business cases is to establish what effects (socially but also financially) youth work has on long notice on many life events and fields of policy. Results are not yet published but we feel they could make a difference is the discussion about transformation.

#### **Lasse:**

Umbrella organisation on youth work and municipalities did a study together. Key thing: development of budgets in the past and future and appreciation of youth work by city hall. This was investigated.

Results: 60% said the budget developed favourably, only a few had zero growth. Their work is appreciated. 60% thinks budget will keep growing. In spite of recession there is more money.

Ministry of education founded about six national competence centers. Kanuuna is only a network, not an organisation. But now seen as a serious player, one of the competence centers. The goal is to implement youth policy. Thematic approach by means of networks, e.g. youth work for 16+ years.

Peer learning opportunities.

Also provide documentation to the government. For example, through the Logbook, thanks to KEKS, with Finnish modifications. Finland has very strict privacy legislation but the logbook is received positively.

Kanuuna grows, becomes a bigger player. Funding is 350.000 annually from government, has increased. After 10 years, it is a lively organisation, recognised by others.

Model for training youth workers is a theme during EU presidency in 2018 by Finland. A model for youth work education is being tested, finished in spring. Also, Council of Europe presidency with conference on this theme on 20-22 feb. 2019. Lasse will keep us informed.

#### **Diana:**

The central theme is: How to reach more and new groups? Results of small projects will be presented in an event.

There is an education project for ambassadors for ethics, providing more background knowledge. Be ethical aware on human rights but it is also about develop skills and the role of youth workers. Diana will send it (to Ellen).

#### **Jenny**

Festival for youth people from youth clubs in June. 500-800 participants from Sweden. Basis: workshops on democracy. The organisation takes a lot of effort.

#### **Babis**

In Tripolis there was a development congress for government and municipality in which a plan was presented for development of the region. It was good to notice it was also about youth issues. Problem is that young people leave the region. How to act on local level?

Government did a research in all municipalities. 3 questions: is there an elected person responsible for youth policy? Do you have youth centres? Is there budget? Only 10% of municipalities do something, the rest do not. Elections in 2019 but youth is not on the agenda. Youth workers should act in order to get youth work on the agenda.

Greece participates in Europe goes local. Babis is in the national working group. This might help to set up a national network.

#### **Georgi:**

Similar to Greece. Bulgaria makes little steps but other priorities are being made. Youth work is no priority. Maybe 10-20 % of municipalities have activities in youth work. Bulgaria has the EU presidency. An event will be organised, no funds are available. So, an Erasmus project should provide funding, with help from Jonas. Conference: young people are a factor for cultural space. Good practices from other countries are needed.

**Ellen:**

New plan for next 3 years with focus on participation of young people. VVJ has a new director and a new organisation structure from September. At the moment it's a bit chaotic. Local elections in October. There is an election project with debates with politicians in every municipality. But also about impact and influence after the elections. New tools are developed. Now: try to influence the politician's policy. Target is to reach half of Flanders.

There are also international projects and mobilities. Minister thinks this is important. Ellen is in the local steering group for Europe goes local.

Belgium had a law on youth work. But after the elections municipalities get a lump sum to make and carry out an overall plan. It is uncertain yet what choices will be made. Youth work organisations have no strong voice towards politicians. But there is a strong tradition, so many things will remain. It is important to know wishes of young people. Youth work and youth councils are the voices of young people. Minister is in favour of participation by young people. Youth councils work well, they are trained by VVJ but they always need back up by youth work. Sometimes this is difficult.

**Tarja:**

The new director of the department is not in favour of ICY. Tarja's boss followed this and decided to stop with ICY. Tarja has not yet spoken to directors. Problem is capacity in the team, not the budget. Tarja strongly disagrees with the decision.

But the mayors of Munich want more international contacts. Tarja also presented the Logbook. There is approval but problem seems to be data security. Although it is approved by European lawyers on all levels.

So chances seem to be that Munich steps out.

Idea: talk to National Agency and Claudius.

**Jonas**

KEKS is growing, 20 new municipalities are interested. Logbook is seen not just as a useful tool but as a common basis for organising yourself.

There is a plan for reorganisation of KEKS, with 5 regional boards who are represented in the national board. Jenny will take over the chair but Jonas will stay on.

There is a contract with Finland on the Logbook. Visited Bulgaria. Did training in Czech Republic and Slovakia on the Handbook, training is necessary to use/spread the Handbook. Guide you through the process. There will be a follow-up project.