

Minutes ICY Board meeting 2017 10 05-06 in Antwerp

Present:

Jonas Agdur, KEKS, chair

Hans Migchielsen, s-Hertogenbosch, vice chair

Diana Pettersson, KC

Lasse Siurala, Kanuuna

Gert Venken, VVJ

Georgi Simeonov, Stara Zagora

Matteo Longoni, Cinisello Balsamo

Henny Wibbelink, s-Hertogenbosch

Dimitris Georgiadis, Thessaloniki

Massimo Capano, Cinisello Balsamo (7.)

“Highlights” and “Don’t forget ...” (from Jonas)

- To promote the handbook, trainings regarding it and to ask your governments when they are going to translate and implement it.
- To follow up that your representatives in the indicator project inform and discuss it with their colleagues and other youth workers.
- To promote the CoE recommendation and to ask your governments how they are going to work with the implementation.
- To Google the Anna Lindh Foundation and the European Social Network, so that we can discuss this the next meeting.
- To look forward to ...
 - ... the material coming from Lasse regarding youth worker education as a theme for the Finnish double presidency (EU and CoE).
 - ... the material coming from Jonas regarding the charter and an ICY quality label on youth work.
- To read the minutes – Thank you Dimitris!

1. Welcome and presentations.

Jonas opened the meeting and concluded that no presentations were needed...

2. Election of secretary for the meeting

Dimitris Georgiadis was democratically elected secretary for the meeting.

3. Follow up on last board meeting 2017 06 13-14

Some more visibility-accessibility is needed on our webpage, particularly regarding the info about the partners. Some partners have not yet sent enough information about their organisations. Furthermore, the information should be updated from time to time. The ICY booklets are now at the VVJ offices in Antwerp. The municipality of Tartu-Estonia will join ICY from 2018.

Regarding points 10 and 11 from the previous notes: ICY members should (if they haven’t done it already) ask questions to their NA’s and governments regarding the handbook. How do they plan to work with the implementation? Will they translate it? How will they handle it?

4. The Erasmus+ strategic partnership on indicators

4.1. Report from working group

One final work group meeting left. Good progress has been made. The skeleton of the handbook is ready.

4.2. Discussions on the results so far

It is important that workgroup members bring the booklet back to their organisations and discuss it. This should give a sense of ownership among ICY members. The booklet will contain many practical examples. A web version of it will be uploaded on the ICY webpage.

It is among the tasks of the workgroup to start preparing the dissemination events. The next Europe goes Local conference is scheduled for May/June 2018. We will try to use this as a dissemination event and present the booklet there. The theme of the conference will be the creation of the European Charter for local youth work.

4.3. Administrative and other issues

Reminder for Jonas to fill the participants list from this meeting and the last one.

5. Reports from board members – what's going on at home?

VVJ has a new director. He will not be present on the ICY board meetings. Ellen de Grauwe will represent VVJ. VVJ aims for 150 debates between young people (youth councils etc) policy makers and government people, since municipal elections are coming in the near future.

The national Dutch conference on youth work was very successful with around 200 participants. Participants were both municipal policy advisors and management of youth work organisations. The topic was the connection between youth work (policy) and policy on youth in the broadest sense. How can youth work be effective for other fields of policy? Next to interesting key note speakers there were field visits and workshops. One of the most attractive workshops was the one where young refugees explained how peer learning worked; young refugees were trained to activate others. The conference was organised with funding from the National Department of Welfare. They consider having this type of conference yearly. The conference ended with pitches. Hans talked about the importance of networking. And participants were informed that the handbook is being translated in Dutch.

Also nice to know: the city council of 's- Hertogenbosch was invited to Brussels and learn about the EU policy. Back home they asked for an insight in European projects, funds and networks. We were glad to have the opportunity to present ICY and other contacts.

Diana informed the board about the seminars they do with youth workers in the field of leisure. They involve preventive and promotive youth work and also focus on new ways to reach new groups and new forms of youth work.

The Greek-German Youth Office will be opened in Thessaloniki, based on the successful model of the Greek-French institute, to promote the cooperation between the 2 countries on youth policies, trainings and exchanges of good practices.

The national youth worker's association meeting will be held in October at Thessaloniki. In November, the city will host events to celebrate the 30 years of Erasmus and there will be an event called "From EVS to ESC" where the new information on volunteerism will be presented.

Greece will participate from now on in the Europe Goes Local project and among its goals is the strengthening of the national municipalities network. The network at the moment consists of 7 municipalities including the municipality of Thessaloniki.

Cinisello Balsamo is forming a youth exchange network and is organising dialogue events between young people and politicians. They aim and take many more internships related to youth work.

Finland will have the presidency of the EU and the CoE in 2019. Youth policies, promotion of youth work training in Europe, youth work education, development of training modules and curriculum, training of trainers, networking of trainers, development of youth workers competences and digital youth work are all subjects high on Finland's agenda for 2019. ICY should be involved in these processes through the Kanuuna Network. Lasse will prepare and send out a draft to the board and we should try to take part in this Finnish initiatives.

There is slow but good progress made in Bulgaria. They utilize Norwegian funds for quality youth work like they did with the CoE quality label awarded youth center in Stara Zagora and they will invite ICY members to participate in their next projects.

Jonas informed the board on how the Youth and Civil Society issues agency in Sweden is being relocated to a small city far away from Stockholm, which will lead to that many staff members will leave and a big loss of competence.

KEKS is, among other projects, working with together with a 'peoples high-school' to develop and implement a new youth work curriculum.

5.1 National youth work conference in 's-Hertogenbosch, 11-9-2017, - Hans
(Please see above)

5.2 Further development of The Loogbok – Jonas

Logbook is going great. Follow up mechanisms and surveys are integrated in the platform and are working as intended. There is an interest from Iceland and Finland on acquiring the Logbook.

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

The project has been submitted. It involves partners from 10 countries, 63 youth workers, 4 EVS and 60 young people. In case it does not get approval it will be resubmitted on the next round where chances for the required funding will be higher.

7. The upcoming 6th InterCity-conference in Leuven

(Theme/Program, Economy, Selection of participants, other questions)

The whole program for the conference is ready. 135 participants from at least 20 different countries has applied so far. There are still 15-20 available spots left which will hopefully be filled by the deadline of the 15th of October. 20 workshops are planned. Great job on the info booklet that will be the bible of the participants during the conference. The program is uploaded on our webpage and Facebook. Detailed presentation of the keynote speakers and all the presentations-documents should be uploaded or linked on the ICY webpage.

8. Information about the CoE "draft recommendation on youth work". – Jonas
No longer a draft! There will be a high-level task force supporting the implementation and Jonas will probably be in it representing the ICY network.
Do not forget to promote the recommendation and to ask your governments how they are going to work with the implementation.

9. Information regarding the handbook on quality development.
Jonas will do a training in Bratislava on November. Since the handbook is now translated in Dutch, a training could be organised in the Netherlands. Thessaloniki is planning to host one in 2019.

10. Information and consultation regarding the NA-project on support for local youth work

10.1. A European Charter on Local Youth Work

The EGL-project is aiming at having a European Charter on Local Youth Work as its main result. A working group is established for starting the process and has met for the first time, but there are no minutes yet. The charter will follow the same path as the CoE recommendation, but will be much more concrete and useful for local youth workers. A document will be produced and will be up for discussion. ICY members should spread it on their own networks, discuss it, fill the blanks or any missing points so that ICY can be profiled as a major contributor and player in this process.

10.2. ICY Quality Label on Municipal Youth Work ...?!

It is a challenging task. ICY has the credibility to develop criteria and processes to materialise such a project while avoiding unnecessary bureaucracy. Work on it can be done in parallel with the Charter and it shall prove a good tool for the network to attract attention. A very preliminary proposal will be sent out by Jonas for further discussions on our next board meeting.

11. Inventory of next steps of partners in ICY

Some Dutch municipalities were interested in joining ICY but there was no follow up on their interest. How could we attract and approach more municipalities? We need to emphasise on the international and European dimension of youth work. Organising seminars and networking event should be a step in the right direction.

12. Organisational matters

12.1. Economy

Invoices are being sent out to all members.

12.2. Web site (information about the members...)

Everyone should keep sending relevant material.

12.3. ICY information booklet and other material

Booklets are stored at the VVJ office. They should be revised and updated when needed.

12.4. Other “internal” questions

No other questions.

13. Planning of future activities.

13.1. Handbook trainings

See no 9.

13.2. Theme for the ICY-conference in Thessaloniki 2018?

It should be linked with the Europe Goes Local project and the Charter, but with better targeted and more relevant audience. Developing youth work together sounds like a good theme and covers a wide range of topics. The board members should perhaps ask questions about the theme of our next conference on their networking sessions during the conference in Leuven.

14. ICY membership in Anna Lindh foundation?

Some members were not informed on the foundation. We should research and read about it and the topic will be discussed again on the next board meeting.

15. Other questions, suggestions, ...

It was suggested that ICY members should follow the European Social Network (ESN). Their last conference in Malta explored how innovation and technology can help create better social services for the future. Their next conference which will be held in 2018 in Valencia, Spain is entitled ‘Invest – Innovate – Transform: Empowering people and communities’ and is organised for the first time in association with the Regional Ministry of Equality and Social Policies of the Regional Government of Andalusia. Digital social work and kids that turn 18 and have immigrant status are both topics that concern the network.

16. Next board meeting and timetable for other activities.

The next board meeting is scheduled for the 8th and 9th of February 2018.

Notes taken by Dimitris Georgiadis