



**WHY**  
We Hear You – Programme for Youth Professionals  
**NEWSLETTER 2**

This is the second newsletter of the “WHY” project.  
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**ENJOY THE READ!**

## 1. Introduction

By **Ulrika Wennerholm**, project coordinator Vasteras municipality Sweden, and **Elena Curtopassi**, ENSA European Network of Social Authorities

The low level of youth participation in democratic processes, as well as the distrust young people show towards the democratic institutions and values may result in exclusion and social marginalisation. The WE HEAR YOU, Erasmus funded project in the field of innovation and the exchange of good practices aims to provide a basis for an improved culture amongst youth professionals, as well as structures that will support democratic dialogue and youth involvement in order to promote civic participation, create participatory mechanisms, thus preventing marginalization and its negative effects on individuals and society. The project will among its main objectives create website and database to identify and share existing methods and tools for youth professionals (best practices), Design new methods and tools, Develop two online courses for youth professionals.



## 2. Focus on: Interview with Claudia Toet

**Head of the Youth Desk of Rotterdam partner in the WHY project.**



### ***What we do you do in Rotterdam for youth at risk?***

The city of Rotterdam have 125.500 youngsters between ages of 12 and 27. Unfortunately, there is a big amount of youngsters who need support to stabilize, transform and participate towards their independency. The Youth Desk of Rotterdam has a collaboration with many partners to support youngsters at risk, marginalization and vulnerable youngsters in their independency and self-sufficiency. To receive benefits, a youngster must approach the Youth Desk. We provide a type of funnel (a first stop shop). [Click here to read more of Claudia's interview.](#)

### 3. Second WHY High level meeting City of Rotterdam

22th 24th January, 2018



The second transnational meeting took place in Rotterdam, the Netherlands. The main objectives of the meeting were broken down into four components: Rotterdam's best practices, development of website/database/social media, discussion of A-course, and reflection, evaluation and future planning. Our venue was on the 40<sup>th</sup> floor of 'De Rotterdam' building, where we could enjoy the beautiful view of the city while learning about local best practices. Towards the end of the day we discussed the website and the necessary changes that need to be made. The meeting was concluded with an evaluation, next steps and an

action plan for the meeting in Syros! [Click here for more info on the second WHY meeting.](#)

### 4. Focus on: Production of the first on line Course

**"Improving cultures & structures for youth democratic participation "Course for practitioners", by Brian De Lord, Double Helix resources, London UK.**

We, at Double Helix resources were delighted to be asked to participate in the 'We Hear You' Project. Our main responsibility is to lead the collaborative work that will innovate a course to support practitioners working with marginalized young people. [Click here for more info on the production of our online course A](#)



## 5. Platform of sharing good practices

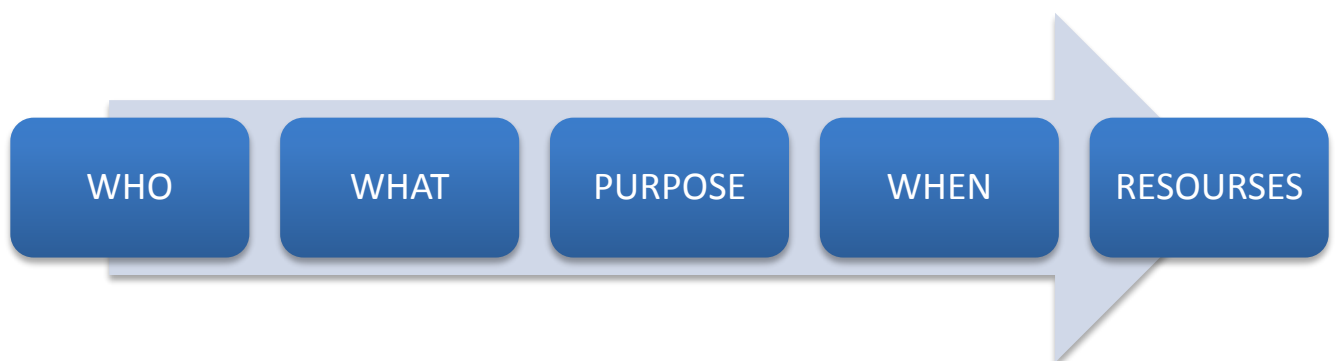
By Barbara Maculan, President of Equality Cooperativa Sociale Onlus, Padova



One of the objectives of the WHY Project is to provide professionals working with young people at risk with some useful tools to enhance their capacity of involving youngsters at risk in the democratic dialogue and to improve the quality of their participation.

To begin with it was essential to sharing and reflecting on the best way to provide a basis to create a true culture among professionals and structures supporting democratic dialogue and the involvement of young people as to promote civic participation, create participation mechanisms, thus preventing marginalization and its negative effects on individuals and society. For this reason, the Why Project is meant to collect, develop and create good practices, methods and tools for

professionals. The strength of this project lies in the fact that the partners come from various countries and from different backgrounds, thus enabling them to put together alternative visions of the same problem and innovative ideas to try to solve it. These practices will be collected in a database currently being processed, which will be easily usable by all and will allow a very wide sharing of the good practices collected. Good practices will be continuously collected, hence making the database always up-to-date and in step with the ever-new challenges that working with young people brings with it. The database will be accessible for anyone on the Why Project website ([whywhereyouproject.eu](http://whywhereyouproject.eu)) where it will also be possible to leave comments on the tested practices, thus engaging anyone to the practice development and improvement based on the field work. Good Practices will be accessible through searches or key words, filtering type and number of information and receiving an alert email.



(Simplified structure of good practice template)

We wish this database to be a good tool to improve participatory dialogue among young people and a valid support for professionals.

## 6. Partners news



### **3rd international We Hear You High level meeting Syros Greece, 13-18 May 2018**

The objective of this meeting has been to select the most effective and efficient best practices with the purpose to involve youngsters at risk in a democratic dialogue and to improve the quality of their participation. Focus also has been on the production of the second online course for youth professionals



In Ghent (Belgium) a new initiative for young people, the House of Youth, has been launched on 7th of February 2018. It is a place where young people between 12 and 25 can come for leisure time but also for accessible social and psychological help.

This house in the centre of the city is a cooperation between the city of Ghent and several organizations who provide care for young people (mental health care, school care, social care). Young people can drop by without an appointment and they can meet peers and professional youth workers. They can join for a social activity or group session or they can have a private chat, this all anonymous and for free. This project comes from TOPunt Ghent (Belgium), one of the partners of the WHY-project, because youth-participation is one of the core values in their concept.

**ENSA news: ENSA Youth and Child working groups and Youth Care Platform meetings Brussels**

Thanks to the ENSA Youth and Child working groups and the Youth Care Platform's collaboration, two events took place on the 16th and the 17th of April 2018 in Brussels, where the WHY project was on the agenda. The first one, organized by Ms. Christine Gaschler-Andreasch and Mr. Stefaan Van Mulders, was held in the Flemish Agency for Youth Welfare and focused on work employment integration of vulnerable Youth. The second event, the meeting of the working groups Child, Youth and Family, was lead by the Flemish Agency Kind & Gezin and the Veneto Region. The 17th of April was also the kick off meeting of the 'A Way Home' EU funded project.

**The ENSA Youth Working Group** focused on sport, soccer and its positive effects for social inclusion and community building

**The ENSA child Group** with the family center 'Huis der Gezinnen' at Anderlecht (Brussels) presented their practice on family support, their cooperation with partners in the neighborhood, their target groups and the services they deliver. They also looked upon the challenges they face and took a look upon those they wanted to tackle first. This presentation formed the point of departure for a discussion amongst participants on the challenges they face in their practices and on the possibilities for new and innovative projects.

**ENSA** is a network of cities and European Regions that has the aim of promoting international cooperation in the social field. The network organizes its work in five thematic networks: elderly, youth, child, disability and social inclusion.

**The Youth Care Platform** has been set up by the Flemish Ministry for Youth Welfare, Mrs. Christine Gaschler-Andreasch, Head of Youth Welfare in Carinthia is chairing the platform from 2018 to (with the support of Stefaan Van Mulders) Flemish Agency for Youth Welfare. This association gathers care providers and their umbrella organizations with those national, regional and local authorities with legal responsibilities for the youth care sector in EU member states.

**Tales@home "Talking about Language and Emotions at Home". Empowering multilingual families. EU funded project final conference Brussels 8, 9 May 2018**

**Available tool for professionals and families!**

The goal of this project is to support multilingual families, helping them to create a favorable environment for language learning and well-being. This aim has been achieved by developing an innovative tool (app) for parents and their children to be used for language related emotion mapping within the family, helping to empower positive emotions and attitudes on a family level and thereby contributing to the improvement of well-being, social inclusion and language learning of the family members.

**Conference and expert meetings 8, 9 May, Brussels.**

During these events the research results and final tool has been presented to practitioners working with multilingual families, researchers and policy makers.

Information about the tool and the training free of charge and ready to use <http://www.talesathome.eu/>

**EU funded project synergies: We Hear You EU and A Way Home project meetings March 2019- Padova and Venice?**

Because of similar challenges and target groups synergies and common invitations could be made for these two projects. The project "A Way home" aims at identifying tools and methods to support youngsters at risk once they have left care systems and to prepare them for independence.

In particular, this project aims at creating:

- 1) An **After Care Protocol**: a set of quality standards and actions, that are imposed by the regulating youth care authority to all professional actors with responsibility to youth care users in the phase of leaving care.
- 2) A **Way Home Hub**: a structural approach to fight youth exclusion (as homelessness). This approach brings local community actors together to build a common understanding of the challenges faced by the young people leaving care.

Coordinator: The Flemish Agency for Youth Welfare (BE), partners: Artesis Plantijn University College - AP (BE), FEANTSA (EU), Carinthian Government - Department 4 – Social Affairs and Society (AT) ENSA



## 7. EU news: useful links

### EPIC launches a new Social Innovation Repository

Since its inception, the European Platform for Investing in Children (EPIC) has featured two types of practices implemented in European Union countries: [Evidence Based Practices \(EBP\)](#) and [User Registry Practices \(URP\)](#). We are now introducing a new section to the platform, namely the [Social Innovation Repository \(SIR\)](#).

### New education initiatives for more inclusive, cohesive and competitive European societies

the European Commission put forward three key initiatives on the 17th of January 2018: a proposal for a Council Recommendation on key competences for lifelong learning, an Action Plan for digital education and a proposal for a Council Recommendation on common values, inclusive education and the European dimension of teaching.

### Erasmus+ evaluated as one of the most positive EU results

According to its mid-term evaluation, Europeans see the Erasmus+ programme as one of the most positive results of EU integration.

‘European Youth Together’: the call for proposals is launched!

[https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/news/%E2%80%98european-youth-together%E2%80%99-call-proposals-launched\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/news/%E2%80%98european-youth-together%E2%80%99-call-proposals-launched_en)

New EU initiative to enable young people to discover Europe by rail

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/headlines/society/20180427STO02706/eu-initiative-to-let-young-people-discover-europe-by-rail>

Greetings from the We Hear You Partnership!



Editors:

-Veneto Region's Brussels Office, Director Marco Paolo Mantile.

ENSA Team: Elena Curtopassi, Valentina Faraone

-City of Rotterdam

Further information:

<https://www.whywehearyou.eu/>