

**The future of young people is AT STAKE!
Resolution**

ISZOSZ (Hungarian Association of Youth Service Providers) issues the following resolution concerning the epidemiological situation towards decision-making and operating bodies as well as towards professional associations.

Youth work performed in the online space may temporarily substitute but cannot entirely replace the performance of professional tasks, which requires personal presence, it may promote cohesion and the preservation of already existing communities. Currently, youth work professional tasks can still be tended to by using special tools.

The Hungarian Association of Youth Service Providers was established with the purpose to encompass domestic youth service providers (clubs, youth houses, centers, community spaces, etc.), and to ensure their quality development processes through sharing knowledge and multiplication.

Under youth work tasks, we mean any social or relief work concerning the age group 12 to 35, regardless of its primary purpose system (this includes street/housing estate youth social work, sustaining youth associations, youth exchanges, youth outreach work, youth advocacy, support for independent youth groups, as well as providing information and counsel services, etc.).

In Hungary, youth services look back on an almost 30-year-old history, in which there were easier and more challenging periods, but thanks to the competence of the professionals, all obstacles have been overcome and resolved so far. So it is now. Tending to youth work tasks is continuous, it takes place online taking advantage of the opportunities given by the 21st century.

Due to the changes caused by the COVID-19 epidemic, tending to youth work, as large parts of education and work too, has moved to the digital, online space.

It is relevant that already started processes do not stop, the already existing communities need support even despite closed doors and institutions. They do, especially now, when personal encounters take a back seat. The problems of young people do not disappear; they are just as clueless, as anyone in this less than ordinary situation. Therefore, the professionals who work for the youth all year round are in great need. Trust, acceptance, assistance, providing reliable information, counseling are the most important in this period, as ...

- the problems of young people are given, they must be answered and reacted to;
- online contact is essential for communities to overcome this period, characterized by a lack of face-to-face encounters;
- young people need diverse programs that provide them with valuable leisure possibilities, opening up new opportunities for them;
- it is necessary to ensure continuous information flow on the situation created by COVID-19 (e.g. education, the process of secondary school-leaving examinations, etc.).

Based on our resolution above, in light of the developments regarding the epidemiological situation, we ask the decision-making and sustaining bodies to accept that tending to youth tasks temporarily takes place not on a tangible site, but in virtual spaces. We also ask that as sustaining/supporting bodies, not to make decisions, which jeopardize youth service and its future.

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