

The principles of youth services

This document has been completed as a result of a common national network development work, which - based on many years of experience - provides guidance for everyone - including ourselves - who undertake to provide youth services.

Our main goal is to create a national resource and knowledge base for youth service professionals, which is able to provide professional representation and advocacy functions in networks.

We regard youth service work as an independent discipline.

Providing youth service

Youth service is an open service available to young people, especially between the ages of 10 and 30. The service takes into account the specificities of the individual and social aspects of the age group and thereby contributes in a way that the young people should become active and informed participants in society.

The main activity of youth service is to deal with young people in order to achieve the above mentioned goal. It works with open-minded methodology in the framework of operating youth clubs, youth projects and youth centres or providing outreach youth services.



The features of open youth work:

- it takes into account the specialities of the age group while conveying the values of adult society at the same time,
- it takes place out of the school system,
- it is free of charge,
- it is voluntarily available,
- it features situations encountered in real life situations,
- it features a supportive attitude,
- it ensures democratic participation in decision-making processes from planning through implementation to evaluation,
- it provides teaching to adapt in a changing world,
- it is reliable,
- it raises critical thinking,
- it is supporting self-organized and grass-roots initiatives
- it is free of discrimination and prejudice
- it is accessible,
- its operation is not affected by political, religious and economic interests,
- it is a partnership between youth service workers and young people,
- it is innovative, attractive and capable of renewal,
- it allows young people to participate in local, regional, national and international levels alike.

The main types of services:

Services provided directly to the Youth:

- information provider,
- counselling,
- prevention,
- community,
- developer,
- free-time activities.

Youth services provided directly to the Profession:

- methodology,
- advocacy.

Working with young people has an interdisciplinary, horizontal approach. The above mentioned list of services cannot be separated from each other in time and space, only differences in priorities may be between the manifestations.

Expectations related to the Service Provider:

- Space separation from other services and own entrance,
- The place is suitable for providing at least two of the above mentioned eight services,
- Available regularly,
- Its opening hours are tailored to the schedule of youth, available at least twice a week, for a minimum of 8 hours a week,
- It has at least one full-time employee with bachelor degree of humanities or with at least three years of experience in the business of youth service (whether voluntary or peer work),
- It has documentation for maintenance and development,
- It has an annual service plan, the designation of its services are available to everyone in public,
- Regularly trains its staff,
- Has local professional partner links
- Continues to monitor the needs of young people and the professional actualities, and changes in the youth service.

Professional Responsibility:

The activities and the staff of the youth service providers are models for young people. The service is usually judged by those, who measure themselves to it. The most important feedback and control bodies of the service are the young people themselves. Therefore every youth service provider has a huge responsibility and they must carry out their activity in aware of it.