



# InterCity Youth, ICY

- the European Network of Local Departments for Youth Work

## Background

In October 2012 on behalf of JUGEND für Europa the first InterCity-conference was held. The aim was to bring municipalities in Europe together and to offer a platform for exchange and mutual learning on the topic of youth work. The idea was then born to establish a European network of local departments for youth work to give permanence to this form of cooperation and mutual learning. During the second InterCity-conference in December 2013 in Helsinki/Finland the network idea was concretized and further developed. In November 2014 during the third InterCity-conference (9th to 11th November in 's-Hertogenbosch/NL) the network was officially founded.

## Common grounds

**Our overall aim is to enhance the quality of youth work in the EU membership states.**

In order to achieve the above stated aim the networks objectives are to:

1. **Enhance peer learning between local departments of youth work;** providing directors and staff opportunities for professional development, mutual support and stimulation.
2. **Promote the exchange and development of tools for enhancing and making visible the importance and quality of youth work.**
3. **Promote youth work as an arena for non-formal learning.**
4. **Promote the exchange and development of new approaches, methods and practices in youth work.**
5. **Contribute to European youth policies;** transmitting knowledge and insight from local government experience and solutions to European policy agendas.

We see local/municipal departments as the most important actors in developing the quality of youth work. Youth work takes place at a local level and without the engagement and participation of local departments no sustainable development will occur.

## Organisation

ICY is a network based on dialogue and cooperation. We are organized as a European Economic Interest Grouping, EEIG. This is a non-profit legal body that enables us to apply for funding, send invoices and hire staff. Read more about EEIG on [www.intercityyouth.eu](http://www.intercityyouth.eu).

ICY is run by a board where all major decisions are made and where every member has one seat. Official representative of ICY is Mr Jonas Agdur, chair and general director.

Membership in InterCity Youth is open to:

- Municipal departments in Council of Europe member countries responsible for youth work
- Networks of such departments

Since municipalities and their administrations are differently structured and organized throughout Europe and that, due to this fact, youth work has both different names and positions within these structures and can be integrated in other units, the term “municipal departments” should not be taken too literally. Membership in the network is open to any kind of unit within a municipality that handles youth work, regardless of its name or formal position in the municipality concerned.

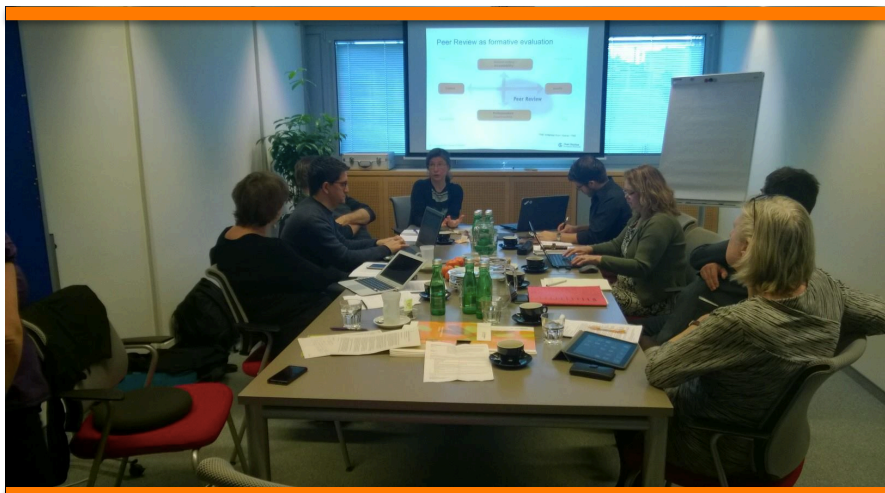
Having departments as members also means that the membership is not personal.

“Networks” is here understood as a group of departments from different cities/municipalities with a formal agreement on cooperation around youth work issues.

As member the organizations must:

- Stand behind the document *Common grounds and intentions*.
- Pay the annual registration fee of 500 euro.

Today ICY has almost 400 member departments in ten European countries and we are growing. For information about our members please go to: [www.intercityyouth.eu](http://www.intercityyouth.eu)



## ICY activities

Examples of ICY activities are:

- Our annual InterCity – conference

Our last one, InterAction for Action, was held in Gothenburg with over 220 participants from 17 European countries.

The next one, Link on Labor, will be held 17-19 October in Cinisello Balsamo, Italy.

- Common projects

Eight ICY members are now running an Erasmus+ Strategic partnership on common quality indicators for youth work.

Two ICY members have won a European Commissions tender and will write a practical handbook on quality development.

Another group of members is planning a common project on peer review in youth work.

- Advocacy

ICY is already an important European actor and voice on behalf of local youth work. As an example we are represented in the work group that is drafting new Council of Europe recommendations on youth work and we are in dialogue with the European Commission on EVS.

- Board meetings

ICY has two to three board meetings per year. On these we take decisions on common issues but we also have a lot of interesting discussions on current youth work topics such as how to handle young refugees and youth work relations to the labor market.

- Exchange

A lot of exchange is taking place between our members. Groups of staff and/or young people are visiting each other in order to get new knowledge and inspiration.

ICY is also planning to arrange seminars for both persons responsible for youth work and youth workers on current topics.

ICY builds on the needs, wishes and ideas of its members – so does its activities. As a member your suggestions will be most welcome!



## Benefits

Through joining ICY you will:

- Be part of a dynamic network that has the ear of major European institutions and stakeholders.
- Have access to and be able to influence ICY's high quality activities.
- Get linked to some of Europe's leading experts on youth work and quality development.
- Enhance your possibilities to be part of and apply for European projects funded by Erasmus+ or other institutions.
- Get support for promoting the importance of youth work at a local and national level.

And above all

- Get high quality knowledge and inspiration to all levels of your organization.

**“We provide directors and staff opportunities for professional development, mutual support and stimulation!”**



## Information and Contact

For more information please visit [www.intercityyouth.eu](http://www.intercityyouth.eu)

You are of course also welcome to contact us directly:

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