



Developing quality and competence in youth work

KEKS is a network of 44 Swedish municipal departments for youth work.

We believe:

- that the over-all aim of youth work is to support the personal and social development of young people.
- that the mission of youth work is to stimulate and support activities that are based on and requires young people's active engagement and responsibility.

We see:

- youth work as an arena for informal and non-formal learning.
- youth centres and projects, as well as different kinds of culture and leisure activities, as means for reaching our aims.

We know that in order to do this we must:

- base our activities on the needs, interests and experiences of young people as perceived by themselves and meet them as capable individuals and resources.
- be actively inclusive and reach out to and welcome all groups of young people.

We argue:

- that participation is a process in five steps, from creation to evaluation, that should be owned and run by young people.
- that participation leads to health and resilience, to the development of skills, attitudes and values, and to active citizenship.

We claim that this participatory process and the learning it creates is, and should be seen as, the core outcome and aim of youth work.

Based on these ideas **we have:**

- common measurable aims regarding both quantitative outputs and qualitative effects.
- a web-based system for documentation of both statistics and analyses of activities.
- a common system for follow up on how young people perceive their participation and learning as well as what young people we reach and the costs related to this.

This means that:

- we can show to what degree we reach our aims.
- we have a solid ground for systematic and continuous development.
- we can make knowledge-based advocacy for youth work.

On the basis of this **KEKS' main task** is to support our members in the development of competence, methods and organisation. We do this through seminars, courses, thematic work groups and tutoring as well as through publishing manuals and guidelines. We also engage in research.

We are governed by a board where all our members have a seat and we finance our operations mainly through membership fees, but also through project funding from, among others, the EU.

Do you want to know more? Please visit www.keks.se or send an email to info@keks.se

Becoming a member in KEKS entails the following:

Through our annual youth centre questionnaire to young people you get:

- A complete picture of your operations regarding
 - ✓ How well you reach your target group.
 - ✓ How young people experience the social atmosphere, treatment and accessibility
 - ✓ To what degree young people are actively participating.
 - ✓ To what degree young people take part in decision-making.
 - ✓ The relation between your costs and the quality you deliver.
- The ability to see how your results develop over time.
- The possibility of making comparisons between your results and the results of others.

Through our group/project questionnaire you get:

- A complete picture on how your group activities are functioning regarding
 - ✓ Which young people you reach.
 - ✓ To what degree they are actively participating. (If the activity is created, organised, prepared, carried out and evaluated by young people and how they perceive ownership and support.)
 - ✓ How youth workers handle young people's participation and learning.

... both in general and in regard to specific groups.

Through our web-based system for documentation, The Logbook, you get:

- A complete system for documentation of both statistics regarding visitors/participants, and what kind of activities they take part in.
- An on-line diary for making notes and structured analysis, as well as for efficient communication between youth workers.

Through our development support you get free access to:

- Conferences, seminars and courses on different topics open to all staff.
- Thematic work groups where staff get to exchange experiences and best practices.
- Support and tutoring for managers and staff.
- Support in initiating and running international projects.
- InterCity Youth – the European Network of Local Departments for Youth Work, where KEKS is one of the member organisations.
- Our vast network of contacts, including authorities, educators and researchers in Sweden and internationally.

Last, but not least:

- You will have a seat in our board where all decisions, from economy to content, regarding our operations are taken.
- You become a part of a dynamic network, leading in the development of youth work.