

YOUTH IN EUROPE
OFFENBURG
TALKS “ ”



#4

ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE,
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
– HOW GREEN IS YOUTH WORK?

CALL FOR PAPERS

THEME AND BACKGROUND OF THE 4th EDITION OF 'YOUTH IN EUROPE: OFFENBURG TALKS'

'Environment, climate change and sustainable development' concerns all of us. The effects of the human-made ecological and environmental crisis can be seen on all continents and are expected to become more and more intense, with severe consequences for the global ecosystem, our societies and economies. Increased natural disasters, armed conflicts and large-scale migration movements are a predicted result of such growing global ecological imbalance. And as the future generation, young people are especially at risk to suffer the effects.

To counter the environmental crisis and to stop climate change and its consequences from getting worse, various actions by individuals and institutions have been taken in recent years to adapt to the changes and to limit the damages happening now and in the future. Young people are playing a meaningful and leading role in environmental activism, particularly in recent years through the Fridays for Future and similar movements as they engage significantly in the implementation of the *2030 UN Agenda for Sustainable Development*.

Also, in European youth work the topics *'environment, climate change and sustainable development'* has gained momentum, expressed for instance in the 11 Youth Goals which have been elaborated in 2018 by around 50,000 young people in a Europe-wide survey and give, amongst others, priority to environmental issues. More recently the topic has been subject of discussion in the 3rd European Youth Work Convention. The declaration *'Signposts for the future'* highlights regarding youth work and environmental issues the need of a culture and a practice of innovation in youth work by making youth work greener and prioritising practices and solutions that are environmentally friendly, aligned with the principles of sustainable development. It asks for strategies to enable young people to engage in a democratic society and to bring change on topics that they are already vocal about and interested in such as the movements connected to climate change, racial discrimination or reproductive health.

FOCUS OF AND QUESTIONS FOR EDITION #4

Looking from a youth work and youth policy perspective to the before mentioned items it must be discussed, which relationship these topics have to youth work, what their impact on youth work, and vice versa, is and which responsibility youth work has, or better: which role youth work can play in being part (or not) of environmental movements and protection. To put it short the key question is: how green is youth work? It includes as well non-formal and informal environmental learning, (green) mobility within and outside youth work, the relationship between rural and urban areas, (green) food production & consumption, environmental behaviour, intergenerational relationships, to name a few more subjects; also, historical dimensions in the history of youth work could be explored, e.g. Wandervögel and the 'back to nature movements'.



Some concrete questions addressed to youth work and youth policy should help to reflect in the YOUTH IN EUROPE: OFFENBURG TALKS on the following items (on a non-exhaustive list):

- which complex of challenges regarding environmental issues are informing young people's growing concern and activism in those fields?
- which conceptual frameworks on the relation between youth work and the topics at hand do exist, what are different theoretical/disciplinary perspectives, core concepts etc.?
- what is the scientific, evidence-based state of the art regarding youth work and youth responses to these issues?
- how environmental issues, climate change and sustainable development can be made a subject of youth work and non-formal learning, which approaches, strategies, tools, exist?
- how (cross-sectoral) cooperation with environmental initiatives and policies can be fostered and how a link to new environmental movements can be made by youth work?
- how can European and other (national) programmes be used to engage in environmental issues, especially the Erasmus+ and ESC programmes?
- how youth work can be made greener and environmentally friendly, in particular with regard to international mobility programmes?
- how can the UN Sustainable Development Goals be supported by non-formal and informal learning and other initiatives?
- which relationship does exist between the Sustainable Development Goals and Human Rights Education?
- how can youth workers and Youth NGOs act as facilitators of processes on environmental issues between young people & society / policy-makers?
- how can young people claim spaces for participation in respective policy areas and strike for acceptance of results of participation processes by adults?
- How can international (environmental) justice or broader, intergenerational solidarity be promoted by young people and through youth work?
- which implications does the Corona / COVID-19 crisis have for youth work in particular when the virus is considered a result of environmental degradation?

CALL FOR PAPERS / ABSTRACTS

With the YOUTH IN EUROPE: OFFENBURG TALKS #4 we would like to look deeper into the described questions and phenomena, to analyse the situation more in-depth, differentiate the picture and talk also and particularly about the position and role of youth work in this respect.

What are we looking for?

Looking at the above questions (and beyond) we are inviting experts, researchers, policy



makers, practitioners to submit abstracts / papers / reflections of different kind. As a result of submitted and selected papers we will structure and cluster potential contributions and invite selected experts to give an input (20 – 30 min) and actively participate in the rest of the workshop. The selection of proposals will be based on short (0,5 – 1 page) abstracts which after selection should be further elaborated and presented in the talk. Invited authors will get a fee of €640 each. The fee includes the submission of full scripts of the individual contributions following the event in order to publish it in a reader.

Where to send abstracts to?

Papers in form of short (0,5 – 1 page) abstracts should be sent per e-mail to Andreas Hirsch, JUGEND für Europa hirsch@jfemail.de

Deadline: 30th April 2021

Selection will be managed by the steering group. Applicants will be informed on results of selection procedure by 20th May 2021.

DATE AND PLACE OF 'YOUTH IN EUROPE: OFFENBURG TALKS'

The 4th edition of the YOUTH IN EUROPE: OFFENBURG TALKS will take place on Monday 11th – Tuesday, 12th October 2021 in REITHALLE Offenburg, Germany (25 km to Strasbourg). The meeting will start at 10h00 on the first day and end in the afternoon at 16h00 of the second day. Arrival for most participants will be on Sunday, 10th October 2021, departure on 12th October in the late afternoon. Travel, board and lodging will be provided for all speakers.

WHAT ARE THE 'YOUTH IN EUROPE: OFFENBURG TALKS' ABOUT?

The series YOUTH IN EUROPE: OFFENBURG TALKS are expert workshops on themes relevant to the youth sector and with an impact on youth policy, youth work practice and young people's life in general. Around 30-35 researchers, policy makers and practitioners, selected in relation to their expertise on the given theme, discuss controversial issues, explore new areas & phenomena and look at answers of the youth field. Discussions are stimulated by short inputs of experts, facilitated by moderators, documented by videos and summarized by rapporteurs. The YOUTH IN EUROPE: OFFENBURG TALKS are hosted annually in Offenburg, Germany by a steering group representing five National Agencies of Erasmus+ Youth: JINT Belgium Flanders, Estonian Agency for Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps; EDUFI Finland; JUGEND für Europa Germany, MOVIT Slovenia.

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