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# BpE: Becoming a part of Europe:

## HOW YOUTH WORK CAN SUPPORT YOUNG MIGRANTS, REFUGEES & ASYLUM SEEKERS

### POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

Social inclusion of all young people, including those from a migrant background, is a key aim of the EU Youth Strategy. Youth work and non-formal learning can contribute to encouraging intercultural dialogue and building mutual understanding between young people of various backgrounds.

The Erasmus+ programme in the field of youth promotes fairness and inclusion for participants from disadvantaged backgrounds and with fewer opportunities (such as migrants or refugees) through specific support, priority setting and targeted use of funds. The BpE project, financed under Erasmus+ Key Action 3, intends to develop

and share non-formal education methodologies and new inclusion practices through youth work, with a view to promoting the integration and social inclusion of young migrants, refugees and asylum seekers (YMRA) and to foster understanding, tolerance and respect among people.

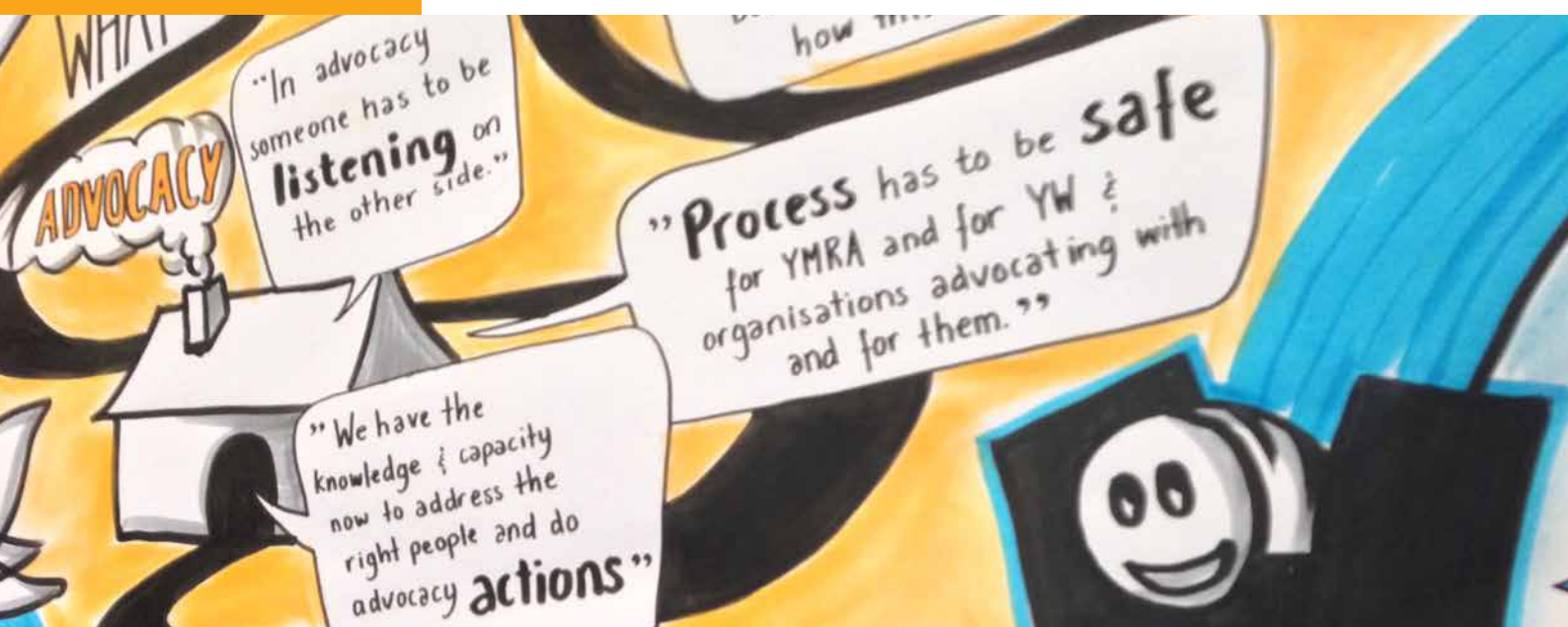
Within the project, based on the expertise of participants and stakeholders involved, a set of recommendations were elaborated for improving policies related to young migrants, refugees and asylum seekers' inclusion, as well as to provide greater recognition of the role of informal and non-formal learning in youth work.

The policy recommendations are addressing different policy makers at various levels, according to the role they can play and competences they have.

## LOCAL, NATIONAL & EUROPEAN LEVEL

### Local, National & European Authorities should ...

**A** Policy makers and authorities should respect YMRAs' human rights and decide on policies based on YMRAs' rights and interests. Policy makers should stand up for human rights, in line with the International Treaties, and help to change the political discourse from a security to a human rights issue.



**B** Policy makers should guarantee the right of youth workers and YMRA to be heard and not being persecuted when they are taking part in any kind of youth work activities and advocacy actions.

**C** Policy makers, authorities and agencies must ensure adequate and sustainable funding for civil society organisations, working with YMRA. Various donors should better link

existing funding schemes, in order to facilitate NGOs access to funding and support them in their actions.

**D** Relevant actors should establish a legal and administrative system where YMRA feel empowered and engaged while creating processes for YMRA in which they can engage and not getting further traumatized by long waiting periods.

## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTORS AT

### LOCAL, NATIONAL & EUROPEAN LEVEL



**E** European Institutions and EU member states/national authorities should prevent and take legal action against fake news, hate speech, racist presumptions and organizations. Policy makers must provide correct information to the general public concerning migration and prevent polarization of minorities, marginalized groups and communities.

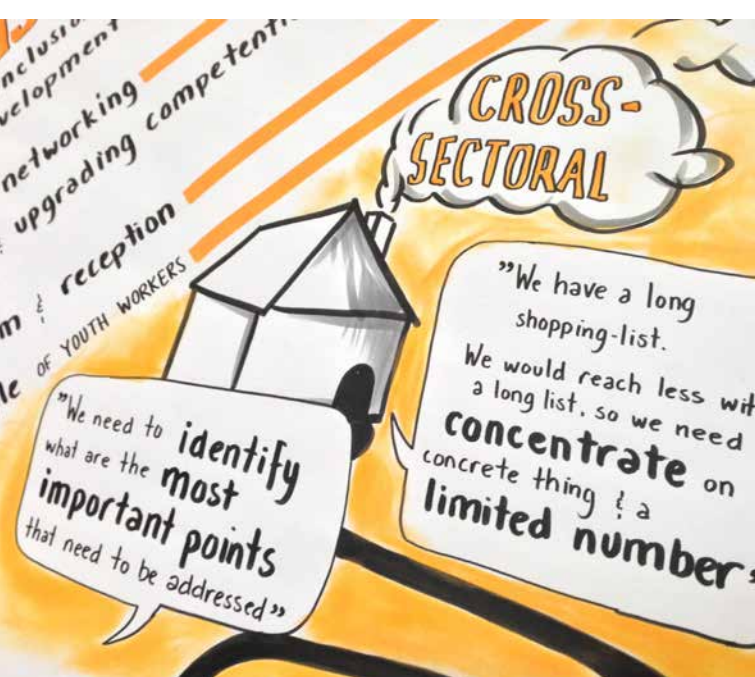
**F** Policy makers should make sure that all actors dealing with YMRA pay special attention to the most vulnerable groups of YMRA, secure a fair assessment and avoid placing vulnerable groups in immigration detention centres. Vulnerable groups, including LGBT+ YMRA should not be transferred in accordance with the Dublin convention.

**G** Stakeholders should provide adequate support for education and training schemes for youth workers in order to increase their capacities for working with YMRA. Training opportunities should address topics and skills such as intercultural competences, human rights, specific rights of YMRA, well-being, democratic citizenship, etc.

**H** Policy makers should ensure that all staff within the reception system actors, and civil servants working with YMRA have adequate skills and training about terminology, cultural sensitivity, intersectionality, mental health, PTSD and trauma.

**I** Policy makers should establish a holistic system for helping YMRAs in satisfying their interests and needs, based on participatory approaches.

**J** Policy makers should support the creation of special expert units on LGBT+ and gender topics within migration authorities in order to avoid iniquitous asylum processes for LGBT+ refugees. They should also examine how a better standardization of a LGBT+ or assessment in the asylum process should be carried out.



## Local Authorities should ...

**A** ... develop information and communication strategies together with relevant local partners addressed to the host community in order to engage local people in community activities.



**B** ... cooperate and create partnership of different actors, organise joint initiatives while bringing together YMRA and host community and reaching out to local communities including municipalities, schools, youth, sports and cultural organisations, local associations of migrants & refugees.

**C** ... create and facilitate spaces for hosting communities and YMRA. Those spaces should serve for getting to know each other, providing information, creating awareness, spreading positive narratives and supporting community bonding.

SPECIFIC  
RECOMMENDATIONS  
FOR ACTORS AT

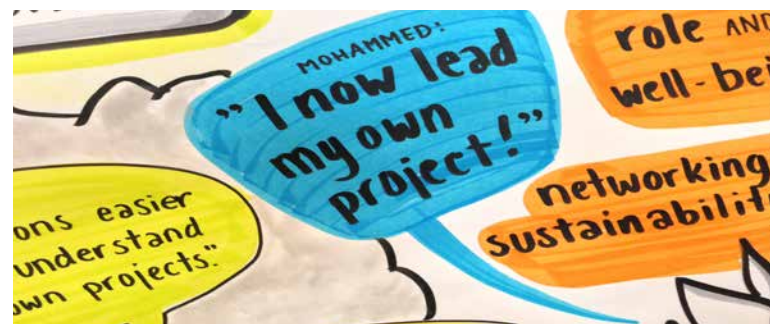
LOCAL  
LEVEL



**D** ... provide education for youth workers and civil society organizations in municipalities regarding human rights-based approaches as well intersectionality, LGBT+ and gender related aspects.

**E** ... elaborate integration plans for and with YMRA, including also legal counselling and guidance.

**F** ... guarantee funding for youth work with YMRA and create spaces (both on-line and offline) for support and tailor-made activities for addressing different groups of YMRA, in particular those who are difficult to reach.



**G** ... in order to prevent nationalism and racism, plan and perform activities for a smoother process of integration of both, YMRA and local young people.

## National Authorities should ...

**A** ... support and facilitate networking and cooperation between NGO's (working with YMRA), youth-oriented services and national and local bodies working with YMRA.



**B** ... support closer collaboration among health services and youth NGOs, in order to contribute to the well-being and empowerment of young people, to work on prevention, as well as for detecting early problems.

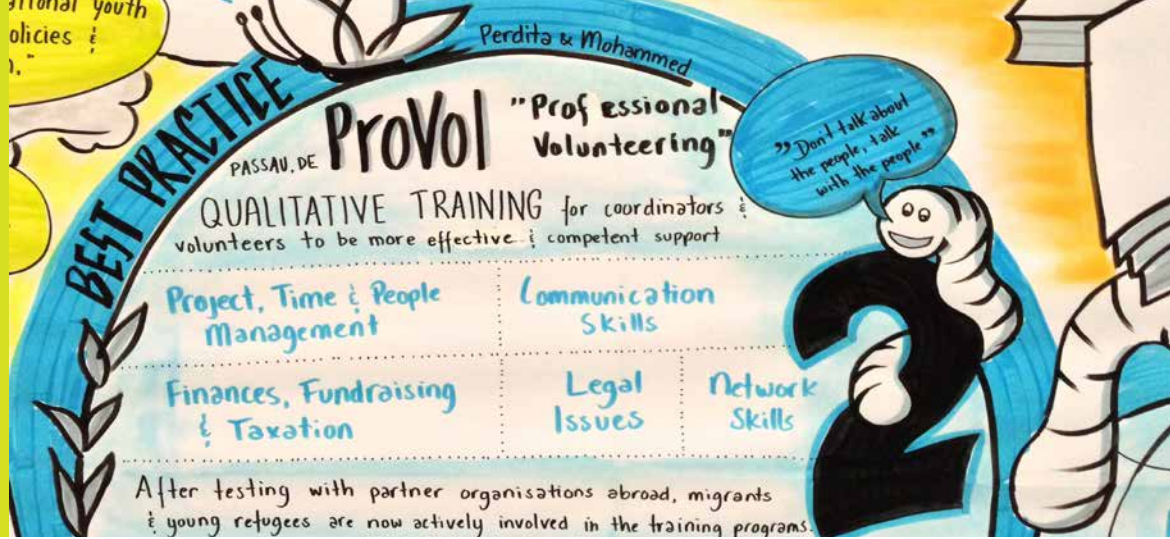
**C** ... ensure sufficient and adequate language courses for all YMRA which should not be only dependent on volunteers and CSOs. They should be provided by the responsible authorities.

**D** ... develop specific measures to outreach minors in families and ensure that all relevant information gets through to them as well.

**E** ... give youth work a strong and adequate role in developing and implementing integration strategies and include youth workers in different entities, such as job agencies, social centres and other relevant institutions, that play a role in dealing with YMRA.

SPECIFIC  
RECOMMENDATIONS  
FOR ACTORS AT

## NATIONAL LEVEL



**F** ... develop and implement a model for cross-sectoral cooperation among different Institutions that will offer holistic support to YMRA in a “one-stop-shop”. Such models should be based on multi-professional and multi-competence teams, working with YMRA and include all relevant actors at different levels.

**G** ... provide information upon arrival to everyone regarding LGBT+ rights, sexual rights harassment, societal information, values and systems in the arrival country and LGBT+ and gender related aspects within the asylum system.

**H** ... establish cultural mediators with a close background to the YMRA & support their cooperation with youth work.

**I** ... provide YMRA, in obligatory way, information about their rights in an easy and accessible language.



**J** ... ensure in the reception system a special housing for youth, LGBT+, single women and also offer separate apartments.

**K** ... ensure specially trained public counsels with particular expertise in psychological matters, LGBT+ issues and gender related persecution.



**Becoming a part of Europe:**  
NATIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS



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## European Institutions should ...

**A** ... promote under Erasmus+ programme intercultural learning and international encounters for youth workers and YMRA, intercultural exchanges for peers and other activities.



**B** ... allocate more resources to support youth work with YMRA. Provide more investment and sustainable funding opportunities while reducing administrative procedures.

**G** ... provide more training opportunities in European programmes such as Erasmus+ and through ESF for youth workers and YMRA. Make them experts in defining and setting up priorities, projects and working approaches.

**D** ... improve the system for greater recognition of (professional) qualifications of YMRA, their competences and their prior learning achievement.

**E** ... ensure space for promoting good practices in the work with YMRA and continue to organise international or European meetings for sharing experiences and practices to build on a positive narrative of migration phenomena.



SPECIFIC  
RECOMMENDATIONS  
FOR ACTORS AT

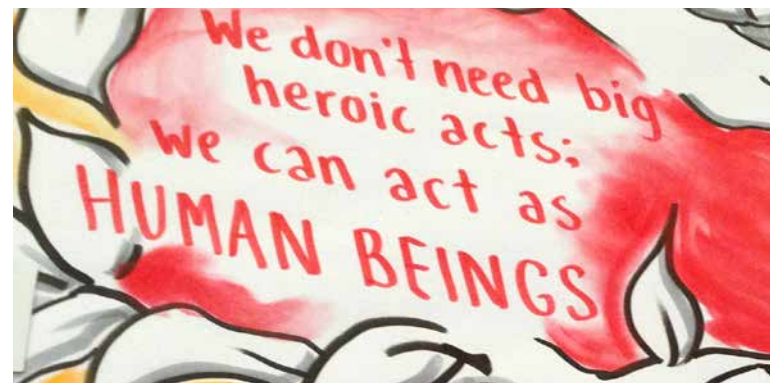
## EUROPEAN LEVEL



**F** ... encourage the creation of advocacy platforms for YMRA across countries and make a link from national to European levels in order to raise YMRA's voice across Europe.

**G** ... create, disseminate and support campaigns against hate speech (both online and offline) with a focus on education and counter narratives.

**H** ... recognise the expertise of youth work with YMRAs and support quality youth work development in this area. This should particularly be done through (future) Erasmus+ programme, European Solidarity Corps, European Social Fund, as well as other European programmes.



**I** ... make social inclusion of YMRA a priority in the future Erasmus+ programme as a tool for youth workers and institutions to further support the integration of YMRA.

**Becoming a part of Europe:**  
EUROPEAN RECOMMENDATIONS



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# Be courageous

## Have a mindset of NO fear!

### Becoming a part of Europe:

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YOUNG MIGRANTS, REFUGEES & ASYLUM SEEKERS

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