

Becoming a part of Europe  
How youth work can support migrants, refugees and  
asylum seekers

Code n. 580420- EPP-1-2016-1-IT-EPPKA3-IPI-SOC-IN



## Index

- ❖ BPE project's aims and objectives
- ❖ BPE project's main expected results
- ❖ BPE project's main phases
- ❖ The role of the research in BPE project
- ❖ Aims of the Braga Meeting
- ❖ Agenda of the Meeting
- ❖ The meeting
- ❖ Deadlines
- ❖ Meeting evaluation
- ❖ Participants
- ❖ Annexes:
  - Annex 1: Draft Research report
  - Annex 2: Life stories – a sociological analysis
  - Annex 3: Draft online questionnaire

## BPE project's aims and objectives

**The main purpose** of the project is to develop and share non-formal education methodologies and new inclusion practices, with a view to promoting the integration and social inclusion of refugees, asylum seekers and migrants and to foster understanding, tolerance and respect among people.

### Objectives

- To identify best practices of Youth Work (YW) in the field of integration and social inclusion of young migrants, refugees and asylum seekers;
- To give value to YW as an instrument for the integration of newly arrived migrants, using informal and non-formal education activities;
- To design innovative models and practices of YW in the field of integration and social inclusion of young migrants, refugees and asylum seekers to build up new capacity and enhance youth workers' skills and competences;
- To formulate policy recommendations about integration and social inclusion, involving the main actors in the field of YW.

## BPE project's main expected results

**BPE main expected results are:**

- **National expert groups (NEG)** to collect practices and share methodology and methods in youth work supporting young migrants, refugees and asylum seekers' inclusion.
- **European-level research** that considers and gives value to the existing practices, life stories of young migrants, refugees and asylum seekers involved in local, national and European projects and initiatives.
- **Capacity building** activities for youth workers.
- **Recommendations** for improving policies related to young migrants, refugees and asylum seekers' inclusion and supporting the recognition of the role of informal and non-formal learning in that area.

## BPE project's main phases

*From December 2016 to December 2017*

**Work package 1:** NEG Implementation through seminars, workshops, meetings.

All Nas have organised 2 NEG meetings each. They are expected to run a National Meeting by the end of 2017.

**Work package 1:** Elaboration of European research on the role of youth work, supporting young migrants, refugees and asylum seekers.

114 Practices have been collected together with 19 Life stories and 20 interviews. An online questionnaire is going to be launched in September 2017.

The final research will be published end of December 2017/beginning of January 2017.

*From the 3rd to the 5th of October 2017*

**Work package 2:** First European peer learning conference in Amsterdam to share the first findings of the research and to launch the online questionnaire at European level.

*From November 2017 to September 2018*

**Work package 3:** Implementation of 4 European Cluster groups, which aim to design policy recommendations

*October 2018*

**Work package 4:** Final European peer learning Conference in Slovenia to share policy recommendations.

*From October 2018 to September 2019*

**Work package 5:** Measures for capacity building of youth workers: Design, development, testing of innovative models

**Work package 6:** Dissemination and communication. In October the BPE website will be launched.

BPE project representatives have already been invited to the following international events, to present the project and its results:

- COE – EU partnership: Braga Meeting in August 2017
- COE-EU partnership: Strasbourg Meeting in October 2017
- SALTO EUROMED event: Jordan Meeting in October 2017

### **The role of the research in BPE project**

The research has the aim to upscale local youth work practices at European level, providing suggestions for issues to be addressed during the Work package 3 and for policies analysis and recommendations.

### **Braga Meeting aims**

The main aims of the meeting were:

- Further sharing practices and experiences
- Provide complementary information to the PT researchers to finalise the research
- In-depth analysis of the main findings
- Future steps of the WP1 and dissemination channels of the online questionnaire

### **Agenda of the Meeting**

**09.30** Official welcome and intro to the meeting (PT NA and IT NA) at University of Minho – Education Institute

**10.00** Getting to know each other and own activities

*10.30 Coffee break*



11.00 Presentation of the main findings from the researchers

12.00 Feedback from participants & NAs' representatives

13.30 *Lunch Break*

14.30 Feedback from participants and NAs' representatives

15.30 Introduction of the online questionnaire that will serve to collect more information about "Youth work and its role/function in facilitating social inclusion processes, especially the ones concerning people with migrant background"

16.00 Feedback to the online questionnaire and strategies for dissemination

16.30 *Coffee Break*

17.00 Feedback to the online questionnaire

17.45 Evaluation and closing

20.30 *Dinner Together*

## The meeting

### INTRO TO THE MEETING

The meeting was hosted in the University of Minho in Braga.

The meeting was facilitated by **Bruno Antonio**.

**Pedro Soares**, Portuguese National Agency director, introduced the meeting and the context. In Portugal there are 2 Erasmus+ National Agencies. One for youth, that is located in Braga and one related to Education and Training, located in Lisbon.

Youth National Agency is involved as a partner in BPE project and since the beginning the staff felt the responsibility to run the project properly, involving all stakeholders. All staff members are really motivated and engaged in the project development. The Portuguese National Agency is leading the WP1 – Research area.

The Portuguese National Agency cooperates with **University of Minho** – Education department in the realisation of the research.

**Alvaro Ribeiro and José Pahlares** are running the research. **Joao Vilaca** is the person in charge of BPE coordination on behalf of the Portuguese National Agency.

**Andrea Chirico**, Italian National Agency Administrative Director, after thanking the Portuguese partners for their work and cooperation, introduced the context of BPE project.

"BPE: Becoming a part of Europe" project, is very important for the National Agencies Network, because it is the first time they have been given the chance by the European Commission to run and manage a project directly.

One of the main aim of the project is to provide "our idea" about how youth policies should be, in order to shape a better Europe, trying to support what youth workers do with YMRA.



From December 2016 to April/May 2017, partners were collecting practices as a base for the research development. The research will be disseminated in Amsterdam during the Peer Learning Conference in October 2017. The expected outcomes of the Conference are 4 Cluster groups that will work on Policy recommendations related to “youth work to support migrants, asylum seekers and refugees”.

The results of the cluster groups will be presented in October 2018 at the Peer Learning Conference in Slovenia.

In 2019, partners will work on capacity building actions to facilitate youth work activities.

Some figures and facts to identify the project activities, so far:

- 18 NEG meetings implemented in 9 countries
- 350 persons reached so far, through the NEG meetings
- 114 Good practices collected
- 19 Life stories collected
- 20 Interviews to youth workers
- Between November 2017 and January 2018 the last National Meeting should be implemented
- In December 2017/January 2018 the final research should be published
- BPE project has already been presented in different international contexts (such as the meeting in Braga in August 2017, organised by the Coe-EU partnership on transition on adulthood) and will be presented in other events promoted by COE-EU partnership and SALTO in the next months.

After the project introduction, Bruno Antonio introduced the agenda and the participants:

- o **Gabriella Calleja** (AGENZIJIA ZGHAZAGH – Malta): Her organisation runs human rights activities, youth services (they do have migrants in their centres). One migrant group, from Sub-sahara, has created an organisation to advocate for the migrants' rights.
- o **Luisa Magnano** (Programa escolha – Portugal). Italian, living in Portugal since 2004. She has been a volunteer (EVS) in Portugal and now, she runs Programa Escolha, dealing with youth centres. She has the mission to maintain the link with the youth centres workers (community animator is the person in charge of the youth centre). Through the centres, she was collecting BPE practices. Youth centres work with vulnerable target groups and vulnerable situations. They are starting now to host refugees and they hope to be successful.
- o **Hanna Stinzendoerfer** (AGOT – Germany). The organisation represents 100 youth and with the Ministry of Youth, they have organised a project related to BPE issues.
- o **Veronique Bertholle** (YEN- France): They organisation deal mostly about social inclusion of young people. They work also with YMRA. They have a shelter for homeless, they host under and over 18 years old people. They do artistic/sport and language activities also to get people over the post trauma shock. They are activating a mentoring programme.  
They are starting cooperation with a German organisation in order to organise activities on the border (France-Germany) to facilitate the meeting between people living in France and their families, living in Germany.

- **Debora Boaglio** (Diaconia Valdese – Italy). She is following YRMA mentoring activities. She is interested in the project because of her work. Social inclusion is one of the area of her interest and work. There is a need for new practices in order to improve the services.
- **Jos Wight** (SWM – The Netherlands): Youth work since 1991. He is working with Asylum seekers. Trying not to let them feel different. His organisation is trying to network with other organisations in order to provide better services.
- **Mojca Kambič** (MOVIT – Slovenia): She is working for NA, and she is an activist and volunteer. Very chaotic and hard. Together with other colleagues, she is trying to make links with NGOs working on the field.
- **Alvaro Ribeiro** (University do Minho – Portugal) It is the first time he is working as researcher in the youth field. He attended international meetings in order to improve his competences in the field. He has a PHD in NFL and Intercultural learning. The most important is youth work support informal learning of participants (see ICEBERG MODEL) because is the way we do learn the most. His main interest to attend the meeting is to learn and improve the report.
- **Sien Wollaert** (Ambrassade – Belgium): She works in Ambrassade, umbrella organisation. They do work with YRMA. She is project officer, coordinating mostly the youth initiatives and the youth workers. It is Important to focus not only on good practices, but also on mistakes to learn more.
- **Helene Rahm** (Swedish development partner - Sweden): The organisation is working mostly in Europe and overseas. They have chosen, as good practice, a project for young asylum seekers. They have a specific pedagogical programme to support them.
- **Jasmine Wahlström** (Municipality of Svedala – Sweden): She is working as youth coordinator in Svedala Municipality. She works with local and newly arrived young people.
- **Pedro Soares** (National Agency - Portugal): His motivate to participate in BPE project, as he feels the responsibility of the EU Institutions to act on migration issues. It is an opportunity to improve solidarity, youth work visibility, EU values. It is also a possibility to help policy reform, to advocate with EU and its policies in order to base them on real needs.
- **Andrea Chirico** (ANG - Italy): Involved in the co-group of the National Agencies Network. ANG share the same aims, introduced by Pedro Soares. In Italy, the refugees' crisis is an opportunity to raise EU awareness that the country cannot be alone in the management of the so-called crisis. In Italy, we do perceive the emergency to support HR and Youth Work. ANG can provide not only money, but also to valorise Youth work on what they already do. A wider aim is to write down recommendations to the EU on the BPE topic and to the future programmes.
- **Giuseppe Gualtieri** (ANG – Italy) He is the coordinator of the Erasmus+ programme on Youth. He is the person of designing the project and elaborating the project proposal. BPE is a complex project. He really hope that the project will help youth work and influence the political agenda.
- **Bruno Antonio** (Facilitator – Portugal) He has a personal link with the topic of the project, as his father was a migrant. He was supporting ADYNE organisation in the past.. He believes that there is still a huge lack of representation of migrants on the public sphere. Now he is involved in DYPALL, fostering political participation at local level. He is member of the Pool of Trainers of the Portuguese National Agency.

- **Silvia Volpi** (ANG – Italy): Youth worker background. Trainer in NFL and HR. BPE project manager. She expect a fruitful work to revise the research and a contribution to the whole project.
- **Joao Vilaca** (National Agency – Portugal): BPE referent for the Portuguese National Agency.
- **Adriana** (National Agency – Portugal). She supports the NA in the communication and visibility field.
- **Jose Palhares** (University of Minho) He is professor in Non-Formal Education since 1991.

## **REPORT AND ONLINE QUESTIONNAIRE: INTRO AND FEEDBACK**

Alvaro Chaves Ribeiro introduced the logic used on the analysis of the good practices and the main sources of references to read data<sup>1</sup>.

After introducing the main chapters of the research, the main findings were illustrated.

### **YOUTH WORKERS: WHO THEY ARE, WHAT THEY DO, WHILE WORKING WITH YMRA?**

- YW (Youth workers) appear to be working in a “in between” and not always in here and now.
- YW use mainly a bottom-up approach: sometimes and for specific circumstances it may be useful to consider also a top-down approach
- YW can be perceived as horizontal intermediary, mediator, working inter-phases
- YW have a role to inter –mediate, to create inter-connection, to activate inter-cultural processes, to deal with inter –religious dialogue. They have also the role to mobilise YMRA trying to work in co-creation; they do co-llaborate; they do co-operate, the create co-nnectivities.
- YW have Community centric modality or based on circular motion
- YW have the mission to work on rebuilding society in a safe way and with a clear future. They aim at personal and professional development of people.
- YW operate under water, developing a progressive CV, based on situational knowledge.
- YW are bridges builders.
- YW should promote trust as a key pillar base for relations and development; provide tools to be responsible and resilient.
- Youth workers should change the concepts
- YW are trying to let migrants to learn new concepts, to restaure their minds. We may consider that YW are trying to change their point of view on the world
- Y.W try to change YRMA’s way of thinking
- Y.W tend to speak about non-fashion learning (working differently with innovation)
- YW go beyond borders

---

<sup>1</sup> Alan Rogers: “The importance of informal learning for formal learning” and “The iceberg; Linda Morrice “Being refugee: learning and identity. A longitudinal study of refugees in the UK”; Lana Pasic “Young refugees’ transition to adulthood Literature review and plicy brief”; Pastoor “The mediational role of schools in supporting psychosocial transitions among unaccompanied young refugees upon resettlement in Norway” and more documents, as mentioned in the draft research.

### **YOUTH WORKERS: BARRIERS THEY FACE**

- Youth work language is very specific
- Youth workers face difficulties with foreign languages
- Youth workers face project management problems: bureaucracy patterns and non bureaucracy patterns (difficulties with TOP DOWN approaches, laws and rules)
- Youth workers face difficulties to promote their activities: they should improve their marketing competences in order to make more sensitive the public.
- Furthermore, sometimes it is not enough to be human. Youth workers should be more human.

### **YOUTH WORKERS: NETWORKING/RESEARCH:**

- Y.W KNOT-WORKING with refugees in order to network  
What are the knots? The sense of belonging YW build with refugees is one of the most important KNOT of the Networking processes YW activate
- Networking is more with stakeholders than with refugees themselves.
- Networking happens not only formally defined with official stakeholders, it is also when we meet as in this meeting
- Building the knots generate the net!
- Policy and research should look for situational knowledge (it is important to recognise the situations)
- Learning take place in group and it is important to build trust among people
- Youth Work is based on plasticity (brain is plastic). Plasticity = combination of what is a determinate and disruptive information.
- Formal s flexible; non-formal is plastic.
- Organisations should not medicate the patient without anamnesis.

### **FEEDBACK TO RESEARCHERS**

After the presentation, participants worked in groups in order to revise the main findings and provide feedback to the researchers. The following comments were provided:

First, it was underlined that it was interesting to have an external perspective (from the Academic field) on youth work.

- The research should use a youth-friendly language
- The research should include a Glossary at the end of the report
- The research should have a final bibliography in which researchers mention the documents analysed and literature they refer to
- The research the may consider to use youth work categories and vocabulary
- The research should have a clear target. It should be explicit in the introduction the target audience.
- The research should be gender inclusive (use a neutral): Use human being instead than Man.
- Contexts in which good practices have been collected are different: In the introduction, we should refer to the different contexts in order to explicit different approaches and tools used and the different barriers youth workers have to face.

- It is important to add a preface and an introduction to the research in which BPE project is introduced as well as youth work
- Preface and introduction: specify that youth work is youth work and that the aim of the research is to analyse practices in the field of migration issues, in the frame of BPE project
- In the introduction, it is important to mention the collected good practices as a starting point for the research. It is also important to quote them and to have all of them in attachment in the report, as source of inspiration for other youth workers.
- Good practices should be uploaded also in the website, as attachment to the report.
- In general, it should be underlined that youth workers work with young people as such. Youth workers, working with young people, despite their origin, background, beliefs, use the approaches described in the report.
- While speaking about integration it should be underlined that, it is a two ways street: migration and societies adapting to each other. The focus of youth workers is on migrants and on society. Youth activate collective processes (promoting learning and changes).
- Heading Findings: Rephrase and reformulate the meaning in a clear way
- Youth work is not a problem solving profession. Youth workers work with young people, migrants and non-migrants.
- Plasticity concept vs evidence based approach: Concept to be revised and reformulated in a clear way
- In general under recommendations heading: "SHOULD", has to be replaced. For instance a sentence could be "youth workers should be enabled to approach the work with young people in a more holistic way". The same applies to the other recommendations, in which "SHOULD" may be replaced with "SHOULD BE ENABLED, ABILITATED, SUPPORTED, and so on".
- Gender issues: Sentence should be revised. We may say that a particular focus should address the work with women that have much more additional barriers in participatory processes and integration in society. Youth workers should be enabled to support their participation and engagement.
- Recommendations 6 and 10 can be merged and rephrased.
- Recommendations 7 and 11 can be merged and rephrased.
- Barriers and obstacles, will be analysed by Braga meeting participants in a later stage: they will provide their feedback by the 25th of September 2017
- Mission concept and Missionary people should be revised
- Main findings: B and D should mentioned in the introduction in order to show that integration is 2 ways street
- Identity concept: (see point 4 in considerations): The multiple identities concept should be used for locals and migrants. In fact youth work support the shifting identities processes both working with migrants and locals.
- SHIFTING IDENTITY – BILATERAL PROCESS. (Changes happen in local societies and in the migrants).
- Dialogue concept should be also present in the introduction.
- Youth work should be aware on refugees fabricated identities that influence their real identities.
- First quote (2nd page): maybe sad = replace with a positive message, for instance one of the next two.

- Youth Work: feel responsible for everything that happens (Do I have all tools to do that? How to get more tools?) Maybe the barriers should be reflected in the recommendations/findings.
- Recommendations can be identified as findings or lessons learnt.
- YOUTH WORKER IS NOT WORKING IN ISOLATION, working in team, in cooperation with other experts = only that make an effective intervention.
- LIMITS OF YOUTH WORK: should be clear to youth worker.
- How the EU COMMISSION structures the funding is putting limits in aggregation of the participants, coming from different countries.
- **FEEDBACK TO THE ONLINE QUESTIONNAIRE**

The online questionnaire serve to have an open view on youth work realities and to base the research on practices and not only good practices.

It may be interesting to know why youth workers are not working with migrants, if they do not do?

It is important that, once the online questionnaire is finalised, the Braga meeting participants can test it.

Researchers expect to get at least 50 questionnaires from each partner country.

After the online questionnaire was introduced by Alvaro Ribeiro and José Pahlares, the participants provided the following feedback:

- Clarify the purpose of the online questionnaire, as complementary tool for the research;
- Clarify the target audience
- Clarify if the online questionnaire is only in English or different languages are going to be used
- Time to answer the online questionnaire should be reduced to 10/15 minutes
- Categories: Use the Erasmus+ categories to define the context and the stakeholders
- Gender: M F O (to be added)
- Nationality
- Legal Residence Country
- Q5: Fields instead of area of knowledge
- Q10: less than 3 years/from 3 to 6 years/...
- Q11: Rephrasing the sentence in EN (i.e In which year, the organisation you are mostly working, was founded?)
- Q12: Check categories used in Erasmus+
- Q13 YES/NO. If yes what? If NO why?
- Q14: Currently? Add local young people (undocumented migrant young people = hidden children)
- Q15: Erasmus+ /Youth and Erasmus+ Education and Training (EVS and Youth exchanges are under YOUTH)
- Q17 to be matched with Q10
- Q22: What activities the organisation is performing (SCALE FROM ALWAYS TO NEVER)

- Q24/25 Next = following
- Q31: unique = replace the adjective
- Q36 = check similar questions and match them
- SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS TO BE CONSIDERED
- If you do not engage with migrants, why?
- What could help you to engage more?
- If you are engaged with migrants, which are the triggers/issues that work to be able to communicate with this public?

### Deadlines

Deadline to comment the report and the online questionnaire: September 25th 2017  
 Revised report and online questionnaire ready: October 1st 2017  
 Feedback from partners, during the S.G Meeting in the Netherlands (October 2017)

### Meeting evaluation

At the end of the meeting, participants were asked to evaluate the meeting mentioning a negative, positive aspect and a suggestion

Here the summary:

Positive	Negative
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Interesting discussion. It was important to have input from YW</li> <li>- The occasion to meet each other was very appreciated</li> <li>- People liked the kind and level of debate</li> <li>- People were impressed about the work done by the researchers</li> <li>- Sharing experiences, provoked the feeling of “not being alone”</li> <li>- Happy: first time civil society and academic meet together and try to build a common vocabulary</li> <li>- Productive and very well organised meeting</li> <li>- Interesting to know what happened in other contexts</li> <li>- Give and receive feedback</li> <li>- Positive exercise to build on common language</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- It could have been better to have received the report before the meeting</li> <li>- Time was not enough to discuss in details the report</li> <li>- Still missing the voices of young migrants: how they perceive youth workers. If they see them?</li> <li>- As usually, feeling that in other countries YW is recognised and in Italy is not</li> <li>- Long day (give me more caffeine)</li> <li>- No time to be with you in the morning</li> </ul>
<b>Suggestions</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- For the future, send the report before. Even if it maybe happen that participants do not have time to read it</li> <li>- Have more time: 1 day and ½ could have been perfect</li> </ul>	

- Need to continue to intensify the cooperation between University and Youth work
- Continue to keep in touch

## Participants

### Participants

Deboara Boaglio	Diaconia Valdese - Italy	<a href="mailto:dboaglio@diaconiavaldese.org">dboaglio@diaconiavaldese.org</a>
Gabriella Calleja	AGENZIA ZGHAZAGH - Malta	<a href="mailto:GABRIELLA.A.CALLEJA@GOV.MT">GABRIELLA.A.CALLEJA@GOV.MT</a>
Hanna Stinzenoerfer	AGOT – NRW e V - Germany	<a href="mailto:hanna.stinzenoerfer@agot-nrw.de">hanna.stinzenoerfer@agot-nrw.de</a>
Helene Rahm	Swedish Development Partner - Sweden	<a href="mailto:helene.rahm@manniskohjalp.s">helene.rahm@manniskohjalp.s</a>
Jasmine Wahlström	Municipality of Svedala - Sweden	<a href="mailto:jasmine.wahlstrom@svedala.se">jasmine.wahlstrom@svedala.se</a>
Jos Wight	SWM - The Netherlands	<a href="mailto:j.wight@welzijnmiddelburg.nl">j.wight@welzijnmiddelburg.nl</a>
Luisa Magnano	Programa Escolhas - Portugal	<a href="mailto:luisa.magnano@programaescolhas.pt">luisa.magnano@programaescolhas.pt</a>
Mojca Kambič	Movit - Slovenia	<a href="mailto:mojkam@gmail.com">mojkam@gmail.com</a> / <a href="mailto:mojca.kambic@mva.si">mojca.kambic@mva.si</a>
Sien Wollaert	Ambrassade - Belgium	<a href="mailto:Sien.Wollaert@ambrassade.be">Sien.Wollaert@ambrassade.be</a>
Veronique Bertholle	Youth Express Network - France	<a href="mailto:y-e-n@waradoo.fr">y-e-n@waradoo.fr</a>

### Researchers

Alvaro Chaves Ribeiro	University do Minho	<a href="mailto:alvarochaves.ribeiro@gmail.com">alvarochaves.ribeiro@gmail.com</a>
José Augusto Palhares	University do Minho	<a href="mailto:jpalhares@ie.uminho.pt">jpalhares@ie.uminho.pt</a>

### Organisers & Facilitator

Andrea Chirico	ANG - Agenzia Nazionale Giovani - Italy	<a href="mailto:a.chirico@agenziagiovani.it">a.chirico@agenziagiovani.it</a>
Bruno Antonio	DYPALL – Portugal Meeting Facilitator	<a href="mailto:bruno.antonio@dypall.com">bruno.antonio@dypall.com</a>
Giuseppe Gualtieri	ANG – Agenzia Nazionale Giovani Italy	<a href="mailto:g.gualtieri@agenziagiovani.it">g.gualtieri@agenziagiovani.it</a>

Joao Vilaca	Portuguese National Agency - Portugal	<a href="mailto:joao.vilaca@juventude.pt">joao.vilaca@juventude.pt</a>
Pedro Couto Soares	Portuguese National Agency - Portugal	<a href="mailto:pedro.soares@juventude.pt">pedro.soares@juventude.pt</a>
Silvia Volpi	ANG – Agenzia Nazionale Giovani - Italy	<a href="mailto:s.volpi@agenziagiovani.it">s.volpi@agenziagiovani.it</a>