

REPORT

WP3 CLUSTER GROUP ON Youth Work Role and Competences advocating for Young Migrants, Refugees & Asylum Seekers

1. Leading Partner

P5- MT01 - European Union Programmes Agency (EUPA) Maltese National Agency for Erasmus+

2. Staff involved into the activities

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3. Participants¹

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¹ Please, attach scanned copy of the attendance list of the meetings



4. Calendar of the activities

Dates	Activities <i>(please mention the activities and the used methodology)</i>	Outputs ²
24/04/2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction and overview of the activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of the results that has been achieved by the research of National Expert Group • A brief about incoming activities for creating an idea of the project
25/04/2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seminar about Good Practices in the field of advocacy • Discussion on the different levels of the advocacy • Discussion on the Youth Work Role and Competences advocating for Young Migrants, Refugees & Asylum Seekers • Discussion on YMRA needs for advocacy • Discussion on the results 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Different levels of the advocacy should certainly be seen by both Young Migrants, Refugees & Asylum Seekers (YMRA) and Youth Workers (YWs). • Advocacy need a certain climate. (Right time, right moment) • Creation of dialogue and trust-based relationships between YMRA and YWs is necessary. • Media to support YMRA in order to put pressure on policy makers. • Networks are needed for both YMRA and YWs. • Platforms are needed for YMRA to speak as freely as possible.

² Please, attach agendas and reports of the meetings, summary of the meetings evaluation, pictures and videos (if any).

<p>25/04/2018</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exercises on public speech and policy making are needed for YMRA. • Certain agendas should be flexible for YWs to be a bridge for YMRA to access policy makers. • Statistics are needed to support ideas therefore YWs need to strengthen their research with statistics. • Cooperation and collaboration between organizations and YWs are needed. • Existing tools and platforms are not enough for YMRA. • Available resources (for example, documents related to statues application) are complicated for YMRA to understand therefore, simplified versions are needed. • YW needs to update their skill-set regularly by attending training courses. • Follow-ups are needed. • Bottom-up initiatives are needed for advocacy to be successful. • There is a fine line between activism and advocacy. • YWs need to understand background of each individual YMRA to help them better while advocating.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion on the contribution of the Erasmus+ Youth in Action 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-formal and informal learning has impact on YMRA to advocate as well as formal learning.

<p>26/04/2018</p>	<p>programme to support the integration of YMRA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refinement of Policy Recommendations • Evaluation of the meeting • Discussion on the next steps 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth Work activities under Erasmus+ are one type of many tools to help YMRA in advocacy. • Erasmus+ YIA programme opens a gate to training opportunities for YMRA as well as YWs as well as youth initiatives whereby YMRA can engage and participate actively in their community. • Study visits, job-shadowing, training opportunities as a part of Erasmus+ YIA programme, could help YWs to better understand advocacy for YMRA. • The European Commission and Council of Europe published a report with findings that are parallel to and supported by policy recommendations created by Cluster Group in Malta. • YWs are the bridge to access democratic participation, becoming part of society and Europe and help YMRA to raise their awareness on these subjects therefore YWs need to improve their skill sets to be perfect bridge. • Networking for both YMRA and YWs is needed to become a part of society and advocacy. • Bottom- up initiatives are needed to understand YMRA's needs and create solutions accordingly. • Platforms are needed to enable YMRA to raise their voices for their needs.
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<p>26/04/2018</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rights of young people should be promoted with YMRA and the local community, so as to foster awareness and recognition of such rights. • Negative connotations in the portrayal of migrants' issues is often reinforced by the portrayal given to such issues in discourse; migrants existing as a 'problem', and this inhibits the perception of possible solutions as positive. • Basic needs of YMRA need to be met before they can embark on advocacy processes. • Becoming part of a society is not a single target that only YMRA need to achieve; it is a medallion with two sides, where integration happens between the local community and YMRA communities. Both local people and YMRA need to agree on terms to live together. Therefore, YWs needs to be a bridge for both sides to collaborate. • YWs should help YMRA to be involved in broader discussions; not only invite but also involve. • YWs should empower YMRA to advocate for their own rights. • YMRA needs to have a knowledge about advocacy. Advocacy is not only about complaining but also about something constructive. • Policymaking exercises are needed to adopt the environment.
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YWs need networks to support the process and have an access to opportunities such as trainings. • Bureaucracy and politicians' agendas should be more flexible for impactful advocacy. • Tools for advocacy should be accessible for everyone. • YWs should be good facilitators and not hijack the idea created by YMRA. • Evaluation of the meeting shows that the needs of YMRA and YWs are parallel on advocacy. • The next step will be in Peer-Learning Conference in Slovenia.
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5. Looking at the practices related to the Cluster Group topic, which main conclusions can you draw in terms of:

- Innovative aspects of the practices
- Impact of the practices at local, national and/or European level
- Involvement of the target groups
- “Inspiring” methodologies and approaches
- Challenges youth workers are facing
- Youth workers’ learning needs

Innovative aspects of the good practices highlighted in the BpE project so far are to empower the YMRA to raise their voices, to provide workshops about advocacy process to the YMRA, to create network for the YMRA, to increase the awareness and to promote social inclusion among both local people and the YMRA, which the Cluster Group in Malta was trying to disseminate.

Impact of the good practices is mainly limited within local and national levels however, since most of the projects that are listed as good practices in BpE are still ongoing, this extent of the impact is still indicative at present. Besides, each practice has their own local and/or national context and values, which cannot be imposed to European level since European Union has 28 different countries with different objectives.

The target groups of the good practices are different in each case therefore involvement of the target groups is differentiated accordingly. For instance, “the Development and promotion of volunteer work among youth” project managed to reach 80 organizations and 300 young people during the project, however “Project Integrated” could not have a similar reach since the capacity of the organisation is smaller.

All these good practices use methodologies and approaches with which youth workers are familiar and have been using in their daily practice, such as peer-to-peer learning, counselling, cultural orientation sessions, etc. Even though youth for youth approach is “traditional”, this approach is the most inspiring approach in terms of inclusion and integration of YMRA.

The identified good practices show that challenges are mainly lack of networks, freedom of action in the work, difficulty to reach more people, to ensure the sustainability of integration, limited materials and resources, language barriers, lack of cooperation between stakeholders, and mistrust between youth worker and YMRA.





Outcomes of good practices and Cluster Group Meeting show that the need of the YMRA on advocacy has resemblance with youth workers' learning needs. For instance, both YMRA and YWs highlighted the importance of:

- awareness of existing tools for advocacy,
- creation of youth-friendly version of policies that concerns the YMRA,
- importance of access to existing networks and creation of new networks,
- knowledge about bureaucratic process and challenges,
- creation of platforms for the YMRA to raise their voice,
- integration focus looking at both YMRA and other young people in society not only the YMRA,
- to use media for more visibility etc.
- to show the importance of dissemination of good practices and professional continuous development,
- promotion of Erasmus+ Programme to disseminate good practices



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6. Looking at the existing National and European Policies related to the Cluster Group Topic, which parts should be

- Further explored
- Taken into consideration, while drafting BPE policy recommendations
- Which elements are still missing and need to be mentioned in BPE policy recommendations

To be able to discuss youth workers' role and competences on advocacy for YMRA, the elements mentioned below must be fulfilled. These necessary elements are missing and/or not enough in existing policies, which prevents further integration to the society and involvement for the advocacy process:

- Addressing basic needs: Basic needs such as housing, income, and language might not seem as problems however, these are the first problems which YMRA facing every day. Their priorities are not how to join advocacy process yet. The priorities are how to cover the basic needs, thus stakeholder should help to find a way to cover YMRA's basic needs i.e. help to find housing, find income such as part-time jobs, and language classes.
- Restrictions in law: Laws and legislations are binding not only citizens but also residents of the country however; the restrictions in the law preclude YMRA to advocate for their own needs. Without having certain rights such as voting, YMRA are not be able to advocate for their own needs, which may detract from the effectiveness of the advocacy process. All stakeholders but especially national stakeholders should seek to influence politicians or public officials on the restrictions to be changed.
- Integration Strategy: With the failure of the securitization and containment policy, cities started to have camp-urban transitions and clusters of ethnic minorities. Lack of an integration strategy resulted with the creation of ghettos, hate relationship between locals and YMRA, increased level of racism. Youth workers should have a strategy to make the integration process smoother for both YMRA and local society.
- Identifying different National Policies for YMRA: Integration and involvement processes of YMRA is different in every country. For example, in the Netherlands, YMRA is under protection of the government until age 18 and the government has been trying to help their integration and involvement to the society with covering basic needs, educational needs or other necessary needs. In Malta, until 2017, there was no policy for YMRA except securitization and containment policy, which gives more space to the creation of a gap between locals and YMRA.



- *Bureaucracy and agenda setting*: In order for YMRA to be able to advocate for themselves, there is a need for more training in setting of agendas and dealing with bureaucratic complications. Language is a barrier that hinders proper address to bureaucracy; lack of networks make it harder to set strong agendas. YWs may support the creation of more user-friendly versions of existing policies and services without taking out the most important information. Moreover, they can facilitate YMRAs to overcome challenges encountered during bureaucratic processes.



7. Which are the main elements to be considered in the policy recommendations document, especially referring to the Cluster Group you have implemented?

Please, list the main elements in relation to Local, National and European Stakeholders

The Cluster Group considered below mentioned main elements to be considered in the policy recommendations however, during the discussions, the Cluster Group did not specifically mention relation of elements to local, national or European stakeholders; this should be further discussed in Peer Learning Conference in Slovenia.

- Stakeholders should take a stand in order to prevent nationalism and racism against YMRA.
- The capacities of existing resources are not enough to help all YMRA therefore stakeholders should strength their resources and/or share with other stakeholders to be more efficient.
- Stakeholders should identify the gaps in supporting the integration of YMRA with local young people.
- Stakeholders should understand the power of Erasmus+ YIA programme to further support the integration of YMRA.
- Stakeholders should help the creation of platforms for YMRA across their countries. Furthermore, European stakeholders should contribute to these platforms in order to raise YMRA's voice across Europe.
- Stakeholders should help YMRA to set the agenda and deal with bureaucratic problems.
- Stakeholders should plan and perform activities in order to make smoother and natural process of integration between YMRA and local young people.
- All stakeholders should contribute and disseminate good practices in the field of advocacy across Europe.
- All stakeholders should understand that youth workers cannot advocate with and for the YMRA, without a legal background.
- All stakeholders should ensure that the participation of YMRA to the activities are voluntary and continuous.
- Cooperation and collaboration of all stakeholders are necessary to be more effective on the advocacy process.
- All stakeholders should encourage YMRA to participate in organizations, unions, community groups in order to raise awareness and create knowledge.
- All stakeholders should take initiatives to create new opportunities for YMRA and youth workers.
- All stakeholders should empower YMRA to gain knowledge about advocacy and should ensure that YMRA understands the correlation between rights, advocacy and participation.
- All stakeholders should cooperate to reach multilevel advocacy for YMRA.
- All stakeholders should promote youth rights approach.



8. Please, report the Youth workers' learning needs in term of competences and tools³, to improve the impact of their actions while working with migrants, refugees and asylum seekers

- Eager to deal with challenges: Working with the YMRA has different challenges other than those when working with young local people. The field itself, for some youth workers, is chaotic. The reception of migrants is hard, challenging own values.
- Trust-based Relationship: Youth workers should understand the impact of the trauma from YMRA's past, which causes lack of trust; therefore local stakeholders catering for YMRA, especially those providing youth-oriented services or complementary initiatives / services, should build a trust-based relationship between YMRA and their end. Youth workers should have an understanding of the range of differences they would be engaging with, as YMRA have their own unique experience/trauma. Agencies, YWs and other stakeholders should not be there only for government or authorities; which would create fear of power and authority among YMRA. The relationship should be always transparent and accountable to be reliable.
- Platforms: Youth workers should take part in creating platforms where YMRA could speak up for their problems, needs, rights, ideas etc. As a safe place of expression, platforms will encourage YMRA to join advocacy process by creating feeling of belonging and will help reducing the rate of marginalization with using advocacy than other tools to raise their voices. These platforms help to activate the participatory process more than active citizenship processes as most of the YMRA are not citizens in the country they live yet and they did not get the right to vote yet.
- Creation of Networks: Youth workers should create networks to be more efficient to contact with stakeholders. Without a network, neither YMRA nor youth workers can make progress with any advocacy process. Networks are connection points of YMRA to integrate European social, economic and political life hence creation of networks will support integration and involvement of YMRA.
- Easy access to opportunities: Youth workers should help the YMRA to access opportunities. Networks help people to access opportunities. Since the YMRA arrive to the new country without having no contact or no network, they have less possibility to access

³ Methods, methodologies, approaches,

new opportunities therefore all; youth workers, local, national and European stakeholders should help YMRA to access opportunities easily.

- Knowledge about advocacy: Most of YMRA coming from semi or non-democratic political systems do not have proper information or understanding for advocacy. These result in the lack of integration with the political environment hence youth workers should plan and implement learning sessions on advocacy.
- Exercises on policymaking and public speech: Involvement of YMRA into advocacy process helps to ensure that needs and recommendations of YMRA are taken into consideration. However, these policy making, advocacy processes and public speech exercises are quite challenging for YMRA who are coming from semi or non-democratic political systems. Lack of knowledge blocks the way to join these processes; therefore, all stakeholders should make exercises on policy-making and public speech practices to make the processes easier, understandable and accessible to YMRA.
- Lack of Engagement and Follow-up: Good practices shows that projects either have problems with engagement or follow ups. Youth workers should examine the causes for the lack of commitment. For instance, basic needs of YMRA seem more important than engaging with a project. Furthermore, even if there is a good engagement and commitment, once the project is done, all the doors closes once a project is over. YWs should help YMRA to commit and engage with these projects and continue following finished projects to create new opportunities and make finished projects more effective.
- Supervision and support: Youth workers have good intentions to help the YMRA in their needs but sometimes they are demoralised and not effective in the actions they run therefore they need also support and supervision. Stakeholders should provide necessary support and supervision to youth workers.
- Erasmus+ Youth in Action Programme: Erasmus+ Programme has three actions to affect both youth workers and the YMRA on advocacy processes. First action is mobility of youth workers that would help youth workers to share their ideas, opinions and solutions about problems they face in advocacy processes or building their trusts with YMRA. Second action is youth initiatives, parallel in different countries, to share good practices and innovative methods that could be helpful for YMRA to start their own initiatives. The third action is dialogue with policy-makers at National and European level, which would help YMRA to get direct contact with policy-makers and would help to reduce the possibility of the bureaucratic chaos.

