



Österreichische  
Nationalagentur  
Erasmus+ Jugend in Aktion &  
Europäisches Solidaritätskorps

Study Visit:

Hungary – Lower Austria



15. – 17. 09. 2019

Documentation





• Program

<p><b>2.Day</b> <b>16<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER</b> MONDAY</p> <p><b>13.00</b> <b>LUNCH</b></p> <p><b>16.00</b> COFFEE BREAK AT THE HOTEL</p> <p><b>18.30</b> <b>DINNER TIME</b></p>	<p><b>09.00</b> <b>STUDY VISIT TO LANDHAUS ST. PÖLTEN</b> (REGIONAL GOVERNMENT AND ADMINISTRATION OF LOWER AUSTRIA) - YOUTH DEPARTMENT - YOUTH WORK OUTSIDE THE SCHOOL SECTOR - - YOUTH INFORMATION SERVICE - YOUTH-POLICY COACHING FOR COMMUNITIES COFFEE BREAK IS INCLUDED </p> <p><b>14.00</b> <b>JUGEND UND LEBENSWELT:</b> MOBILE YOUTH WORK - WALKING TOUR</p> <p><b>16.30</b> <b>REFLECTION: WHAT WE HAVE SEEN?</b></p> <p><b>20.00</b> <b>ERASMUS+ WORLD CAFÉ</b> SHARING PROJECT STORIES FROM AUSTRIA AND HUNGARY</p>
<p><b>1.Day</b> <b>15<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER</b> SUNDAY</p> <p><b>13.00</b> <b>LUNCH</b></p> <p><b>14.30</b> <b>START OF THE PROGRAM</b> - GETTING TO KNOW EACH OTHER - </p> <p><b>16.00</b> <b>COFFEE BREAK</b></p> <p><b>16.15</b> <b>EXPECTATIONS</b> </p> <p><b>17.00</b> <b>YOUTH WORK CONTEXT IN</b> (LOWER) AUSTRIA AND HUNGARY </p> <p><b>18.30</b> <b>VISIT TO YOUTH CENTRE</b> "STEPPEWOLF" IN ST. PÖLTEN</p> <p><b>19.30</b> <b>DINNER AT YOUTH CENTRE</b> "STEPPEWOLF"</p>	<p><b>3.Day</b> <b>17<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER</b> TUESDAY</p> <p><b>09.00</b> <b>STUDY VISIT TO MÖDLING</b> HAUS DER JUGEND MÖDLING MOBILE YOUTH WORK IN RURAL COMMUNITIES SUPPORT FOR (INDEPENDENT) YOUTH ROOMS - YOUTH CULTURE HALL -</p> <p><b>11.30</b> <b>COFFEE BREAK</b></p> <p><b>11.45</b> <b>REFLECTION AND CLOSING</b></p> <p><b>13.00</b> <b>LUNCH</b> IN MÖDLING</p> <p><b>14.00</b> <b>DEPARTURE (TRANSFER TO WIEN)</b></p>

## DAY 1 (Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> of September)

- **Context of Youth Work in Austria and Hungary**

### Overview of youth work in (Lower) Austria

by Karin

Definition of youth work in Austria: youth work outside the school sector (something that is not happening at school)

There are three pillars of Austrian Youth work:

- **Youth organisations:** e.g. scouts, school council, political and religious youth organisations etc., have different sources of funding (get basic funding by the province, church, political parties, member's fees etc.)
- **Youth Information:** Provides info and services to young people (legal counselling, exchange opportunities etc.), in Lower Austria there is a broad spectrum of services; it is funded entirely by the provinces (regional government)
- **Open Youth Work:** Professional youth work addressing all young people regardless their gender, ethnic, religious or political background: open for ALL young people:

Distinction between site-specific youth work (youth centers, youth counselling, youth culture halls) AND mobile youth work including the support for independent youth rooms (this is professional support for young people to run their own youth rooms). Principals of Open Youth Work: Openness, Participation of young people on a voluntary basis, low-threshold

#### **Legislation on youth work:**

Due to the federal structure there is not just a single youth law in Austria, but several laws for different youth related topics, many on the level of the nine federal states; however, the youth law has harmonized significantly in the last year.

#### **National Level:**

- No law on youth work
- The Federal Youth Promotion Act (Bundes-Jugendförderungsgesetz) – the objective is the promotion of measures of extracurricular youth education and youth work, for the purpose of furthering the development of the mental, psychic, physical, social, political, religious and ethical competences of children and young people. The National Youth Council and national youth organisations receive funding through the Federal Youth Promotion Act
- The Federal Youth Representation Act (*Bundes-Jugendvertretungsgesetz*) is to ensure the representation of young people's concerns before the political decision makers on a federal level, thus the Austrian National Youth Council is the statutory representative body for young people in Austria. The National Youth Council has the status of a social partner in Austria

#### **Provincial Level:**

- The respective member of the provincial government (also called the political head of the provincial youth department) is responsible for the regional organisation and

implementation of issues relating to youth policy and the implementation of children and youth work. Each Austrian province allocates the competences and duties differently.

- Provincial Youth Department: responsible for youth agenda in the provinces. They are definitely an important reference point for municipalities. Depending on the federal state they offer various support measures directly or through NGOs
- Youth Information Centres with at least one office in the federal capital (28 Youth Information Centres in Austria)
- Provincial youth council (do not have social partnership status on youth issues) they are also a representative body
- Funding: funding for open youth work from the regional government is perceived as on average 1/3, in youth information it can be up to nearly 100%. Youth organisations and associations are often supported by the municipal level also via providing infrastructure and in case of local/regional branches their national "mother organisation"

#### **Municipal Level:**

- Besides the provincial government, municipalities are the biggest funders of children and youth work and can finance organisations themselves or engage independent associations for that purpose
- In many cases the community bears the costs of infrastructure such as youth centres, playgrounds and sports fields
- It is not mandatory for municipalities to have youth work offer, but there are incentives (e.g. family friendly, youth friendly municipality) that encourage municipalities to invest in services for youth

#### **Lower Austria:**

- In every municipality one person that is elected into the local council has to deal with youth agendas (but no age limit)
- Youth centers do not get any funding from the provincial government and rely only on municipalities
- Mobile youth work has a different funding body (children and youth welfare) and can be funded from the province
- Province provides project funds for umbrella organization of open youth work (but no staff costs)

#### **NÖJA: Network of Professional Open Youth Work in Lower Austria**

- Has 26 member organisations and 53 locations where open youth work takes place
- 4 network meetings every year
- Receive project based funding from the regional youth department

In this study Visit, as well as in the presentation there was a **focus** on professional open youth work, because open youth work is most active on the local level.

## Summary:

### Professional/voluntary (paid):

- Open youth work: mainly professional but it includes voluntary work (e.g. volunteers or ESK volunteers in youth centers);
- Youth information: only professional;
- Youth organisations: voluntary (& professional – some youth organisations have employees)

### Access/Barriers:

- Open youth work: very low threshold, low barriers;
- Youth information: medium because you need to know that it exists and find it, but open for everybody;
- Youth organisations: you have to be a member, often you have to agree to a certain mindset, have physical ability, membership is limited, sometimes fees etc.

### Finances:

- Open youth work: mostly by municipalities, but in most provinces, there is also funding by the provinces, often there are possibilities for project based funding;
- Youth information: funded by the provincial government;
- Youth Organisations: very different, some are funded by donations, political Organisations; members of national youth council get funding from government (basic funding)

### More Information:

- <https://www.frauen-familien-jugend.bka.gv.at/jugend/jugendarbeit.html>
- <https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/national-policies/en/content/youthwiki/overview-austria>



## Youth Work in Hungary

by Barnabas

When we talk about youth work in Hungary it pretty much depends on the perspective from where you see that. There are different approaches and understanding of it and let's say that youth work is a somehow transitional. The practice of youth work is really colourful and builds our common



knowledge slowly about youth work and how we approach to young people. Most common appearance of youth work in Hungary are social and cultural activities mainly at local level.

The historical roots of youth work are connected with the pioneer movement of socialist time and the development of youth work after the system change was not part of the political agenda.

Because there is no particular/specific training/course about youth work thus at local level often volunteer leaders, youth workers are carrying out youth work within rather no clear goals. Youth work appears in community and cultural centres and in youth clubs, info points where young people are considered as clients of different services. In this sense it could be understood as youth work is somehow connected to open youth work concept.

What is interesting about Hungary as that there is lack of legislative framework to youth work, having us on the list of countries without having a youth or youth work law. Without clear framework the financing as well not solved and alternative understandings can be found all over the country. Local municipalities are obliged by law to deal with youth affairs among the rest of the other duties, but the fulfilment of this task is rather not satisfactory. In smaller scale civil society organizations are carrying out youth work too, with several initiatives coming from them directly to identify, define, structures youth work in Hungary.

More Information:

- <https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/national-policies/en/content/youthwiki/overview-hungary>

## Comparing Hungary and Austria

*Lost in translation?*

german	english	magyar
Gemeinde	„community“ Community council municipality	Önkormányzat Képviselő-testület helyi hivatal/ hatóság
Gemeinderat	local government community council representative	önkormányzati képviselő
Jugendgemeinderat	responsible for Youth	ifjúsággüggert feldős ö. képvis. Nö- Ausztriában Kötelező!
Bundesland	= federal state (9) = province (9) „region“ = country	Szövetségi állam tartomány „regio“
Landesrat f. Jugend	Provincial Government Rep. for Youth	Tartományi Parl./ Kormányzati Képviselő → Ifjúságügy
Landesjugendreferent	Head of Provincial Youth Dep.	Tartományi ifjúsági referens
Jugendreferent	Youth (Policy) Officer	Ifjúsági referens helyi

*Same stuff - different terms?*

AUSTRIA	HUNGARY
<p><u>Open Youth Work</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- YW accessible for all</li> <li>- low threshold</li> <li>- no membership needed</li> </ul> <p>↳ <u>mobile Youthwork</u> → Streetwork → activities at parks etc...</p> <p>↳ <u>Youth Center</u> → physical space → opening hours → run by Youth Workers (or at least accompanied)</p> <p>↳ <u>outreach- YW</u> → connected to mobile YW or Youth Centers etc... or offer for NEETs/.../...</p>	<p>„NYIT-TIT“ IFJ. MUNKA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- i munka bármikor elérhető</li> <li>- alacsony küszöbű</li> <li>- nincs tagdíj</li> </ul> <p>Mobil és</p> <p>↳ <u>Felkereső IFJ MUNKA</u> - utcai ifj. munka - animáció, outdoor események</p> <p>↳ <u>Ifjúsági Irodák Központok</u> - fizikai tér - nyitvatartási id. - ifjúsági munkások és fiatalok által vezérelt</p> <p>→ <u>lelcsoport</u> specifikus felkereső munka</p>



- **Field Visit**

## Youthcenter Steppenwolf

Youth Center in St. Pölten, target group young people between 14 and 24 years, it is a free offer, space for young people where they can spend their time, offer information and counselling for young people. They also have a skate hall, which is open the same at the same time as the youth center. Cultural work is an important aspect of Steppenwolf as well (Graffiti projects etc.)

There are 5 employees (not full time), they are trained social workers.



On Tuesday, only girls are allowed to come to the youth center (girls day), there are only female social workers present; on the other days, mostly young men come to the youth center.

They do not organize projects, but they support young people when they have ideas and want to implement a project; They also use a participatory approach to decision-making in the youth center.

The Youth center is funded to 100% by the local government

## **DAY 2 (Monday 16<sup>th</sup> of September)**

- **Visit to Landhaus**

### Presentation of the head of the provincial youth department of Lower Austria Wolfgang Juterschnig

Sees cooperation as an important factor for youth work (like Erasmus+, ESK); an example is also this study visit: working together, learning from each other

Initiative of the province: Youth partner municipalities: there are 233 youth partner municipalities in Lower Austria, get the certification for three years. This should show that they are a youth friendly municipality and have special offers for youth; But they should not only work for but also with young people; They are informed about youth related issues and news, there are offers for workshops etc;

They also get a plate for their municipality to say that they are a youth partner municipality; Communication between regional youth department and these municipalities is important;

Financial support of the province:

- basic funding for youth organisations
- project based funding
- fund the youth information
- (support for public transport for young people that live and work/study in Lower Austria (200€/year per person))

Sees it as a challenge for the future on how formal and non-formal learning sector can cooperate better; School social work is not financed through the youth department, it is part of social issues – there is more demand than there are offers.

The regional youth council (consisting of young people of regional youth organisations and the open youth work): political dimension; meet three times a year and discuss youth related topics, advise decision-makers (e.g. ban of smoking for minors)

→ A problem is that municipalities often do not know/understand the importance of quality professional youth work. Idea: regional government should highlight the importance of quality professional open youth work among the youth partner municipalities.

**More Information:**

- <https://www.jugend-ok.at/>



Photo with the Lower Austrian Political Head of the Provincial Youth department Christiane Teschl-Hofmeister and Administrative Head of the Lower Austrian Provincial Youth Department Wolfgang Juterschnig

## Youth Information

by Lutz Köllner, Nadine Hasenzagl, Virna Hadziosmanovic

Approach: people who come to the youth information are young people, parents, teachers, youth workers. They are seen as customers; Youth information asks: what does the customer need, because they need different things

Either they have the information of know where the customers can get the information

Services: consultation (face-to-face, phone, email), providing information, organizing workshops, projects (national and international).

Youth information is changing: They used to have a computer for young people to use (this is unnecessary now); ideas have to be adapted according to time

Slogan: "You don't need to know everything" powerful slogan for young people with many questions in mind – youth information is the helping hand, it provides answers to questions, and counselling; they also offer a fun part in office

Last year, there were more than 11.000 questions on request, 5000 conversation (face to face during events, fair, workshops etc), 800 hours of workshops also with multipliers

Important for the work of the youth information: to spread the knowledge. Network partners: regional youth department, NÖJA, Austrian National Agency for Erasmus+ Youth in Action, partners of international networks, also part of network of health competent youth work (addiction prevention), etc.

Youth information on many topics, but there is special expertise on: education (school, apprentice, university), health and social issues (tips for leaning and healthy nutrition, sexual education), youth law, youth card (free and proof of age, get discounts for activities (cinema, pool etc.)), "EURE Projekte": small funding for projects of young people (500€), very low threshold;

The youth information is also the regional office for Erasmus+, offers counselling to (potential) applicants

### **More Information:**

- <https://www.jugendinfo-noe.at/>

## Youth Coaching for municipalities

By Thomas Tatos

The Youth Coaching is an offer for municipalities that want to become more youth friendly and expand their offers for young people; The offer counselling services for municipalities, they try to include many stakeholders (municipality, young people, parents, adults, etc). The goals are to foster youth participation on the municipal level, create dialogue between young people and decision makers, introduce and develop a culture of dialogue

They react if there is a demand for it (no need for advertisement); the first consultation is free, other consultations have to be paid by the municipality

Examples of their work: develop places and space for youngsters (in a participatory process), conflict management, inter-communal projects, developed a "citizens council" where young people can voice their opinions and views in front of decision makers

Work principals: non-partisan, orientation on individual needs, life situations and resources, dialogue at an eye-to eye level, participation

Challenges: some conflicts could not be solved because it was not possible to discuss on an eye-to eye level

Experiences: it is important to treat politicians like other people (and without fear), tell them what you really think, also: adult politicians sometimes fear to talk to young people – create spaces for interaction! Step-by step approaches without pressure; important to work with people who know the municipality well (there is always a person who knows the people and the conflicts in a municipality very well) use the resources of the community

#### Background of the work:

- Community intelligence by Gerald Hütter
- Concept of reflecting: Gerald Koller
- Build on experiences

#### More Information:

- <http://www.noe.gv.at/noe/Jugend/Jugendcoaching.html>
- <https://www.jugendinfo-noe.at/leben-a-z/jugendcoaching-fuer-gemeinden>

- **Field Visit**

### Verein Jugend und Lebenswelt – Mobile Youth Work

The association offers mobile youth work services for young people in St. Pölten; Mobile youth workers move around parks, the train station, park-houses and other places, where young people spend their time; they move around in pairs of two people, sometimes they take their bus; they directly approach young people in public space; they offer counselling and support for all young people.

The mobile youth workers work a lot with homeless young people and very young mothers.

The action bound tour included stops in two parks, the train station, a shopping center. The last stop was in a youth meet-up space near the train station; this is the "base" of Jugend und Lebenswelt; it functions similarly to a youth center, it offers a space for young people where they can do their homework, hang out, play etc. They have specific opening hours.

Clear professional relationship with the youngsters is important.

## Day 3 (17<sup>th</sup> of September)

- **Field Visit to “Haus der Jugend Mödling”**

House with different offers and associations that work for and with young people, Youth Center “House Café” on the ground floor; Verein Tender and Bildungszentrum BACH; Red Box: youth culture center: concert hall and practice space for bands

### Bildungszentrum BACH

Operated by the Diakonie Österreich (Association by the protestant church); the Education Center BACH offers education and counselling for young refugees,

Main areas of work:

- Courses for literacy: very intense courses (20h/week) in German, English, Math, basic digital skills, maximum 30 students can be part of it; targets young adults (16-30 years); 30-40% of the participants are female
- Compulsory School education: 6h every day, have 6 big exams in the end, also workshops and short-term internships are part of the program (should also get to know the Austrian labour market); they take the final exams at a public school
- Education and Career Counselling: Inform about the labour market, careers, financial aid for education etc.

They have a good network with houses for unaccompanied minor refugees, the word also spreads among the participants; some students have to travel very far (up to 1 ½ hours); because of the regulation, only refugees that stay in Lower Austria are allowed to up the offers (not from Vienna, even though it is very close); Diakonie pays for transport but is also dependent on donations



## Verein Tender

NGO and NPO for professional youth work; they operate different projects and have 4 suborganisations in 4 districts of Lower Austria (active in many villages)

- Mobile youth work (4 suborganisations)
- Low threshold youth counselling
- School social work in schools
- Youth intensive care
- 4 youth clubs (similar like youth centers but smaller)

All in all, there are 40 employees (most of whom are social worker)

They get financed by the provincial government of Lower Austria and local municipalities

Local politicians are important cooperation partner; Tender lobbies for quality youth work

**Youth intensive Care:** this is a special form of education for families; the aim is to prevent that a minor has to leave the family and stay somewhere else (e.g. foster care); target group: 12-18 years; this is a binding offer of care for youngsters (& their families) who's personal development is at risk (violence, substance abuse in the family, conflict, diseases, etc.); this service is free of charge for the families; cooperate closely with the child welfare

