



21-24 MAY  
2019

## "Recognition of Youth Worker:

*a specific work for and with  
youth"*





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*a specific work for and with  
youth"*



# Who we are?

- Research Institute founded in 2010 within the Department of Political Social Science and Communication of the University of Salerno
- Affiliated of the Observatory of Youth Policies of Campania Region
- Agent of social, cultural and economic development
- Point of contact between research field and public and private actors that deal with young people
- Active and participating actor in the realization and promotion of national and European projects for young people

<http://www.giovani.unisa.it>



# What do we do?

- Analyze the youth condition at national and regional level;
- Action research in the field of youth policies
- Monitoring and dissemination of opportunities and projects
- Daily editing and sharing of useful content for young people
- Collaboration with public and private organizations



**Short Term Goals**

Main and daily activities

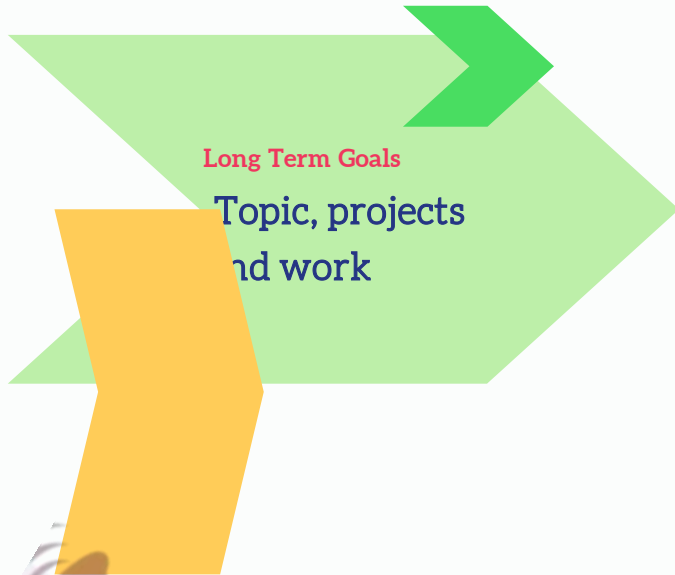


# OCPYC... through the years

- Network activity
- Participation, active citizenship, social innovation and creativity
- European, national and local project
- Active cooperation with policy maker within Youth Department

Long Term Goals

Topic, projects  
and work



# Why are we here?



## "Our Proposal"

### YOUTH WORKER SUMMER SCHOOL 2020

- Background
- Objectives
- Beneficiaries
- Impact
- Resonance in Europe
- Your perspectives and opinions



# Mediterranean and Italian BACKGROUND



## THE ISSUE

- Many best practices
- Good results
- Many initiatives and projects
- VS
- Absence of government law
- Absence of strong state support

## YOUTH POLICIES

- 16 region on 20 have introduced the youth worker in their legislation
- Law 205/2017 "Iori" to define competences and training paths
- Campania Region Law n.26/2016 "Building Future . New Policies for Young People"

## KEY POINTS

- Innovation
- Youth work competences
- Approaches to work with young people
- Non-formal learning



**Where does our proposal  
come from?**



# Local best practice

- **Proposing subjects:** non-profit association; private actors; youth center; national agencies; youth forum;
- **Beneficiaries:** young people
- **Contexts:** social and economical welfare VS social and financial disease;
- **Approaches:** Formal kind of support VS innovative strategies

# A look into practice

## Social Sport Center "Star Judo"

- What is "Maddaloni Method?"
- What are the characteristics of the place?
- Who are the beneficiaries?
- Sport and youth work to counter social disease

[Star Judo Club – I trust Judo](#)

# A look into practice

## Social Cooperative - Onlus "Il tappeto di Iqbal"

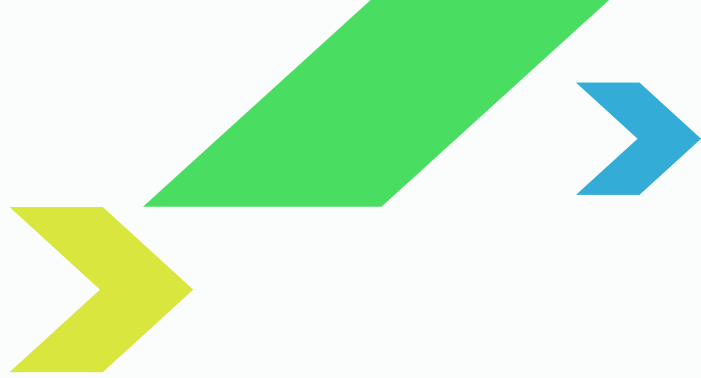
- What do it do?
- What is the social context?
- Who are the beneficiaries?
- Non formal learning, social circus, sport and innovation to fight social disease
- Resilience circus

# A look into practice

## "Moby Dick" - Cultural Youth Association

- What do they do?
- What is their field of action?
- Who are the beneficiaries?
- Supporting young people through non-formal education; projects, opportunities and European mobility

[Project "Europa più vicina" Moby Dick in Tour](#)  
[Project "Non-formal education within School"](#)



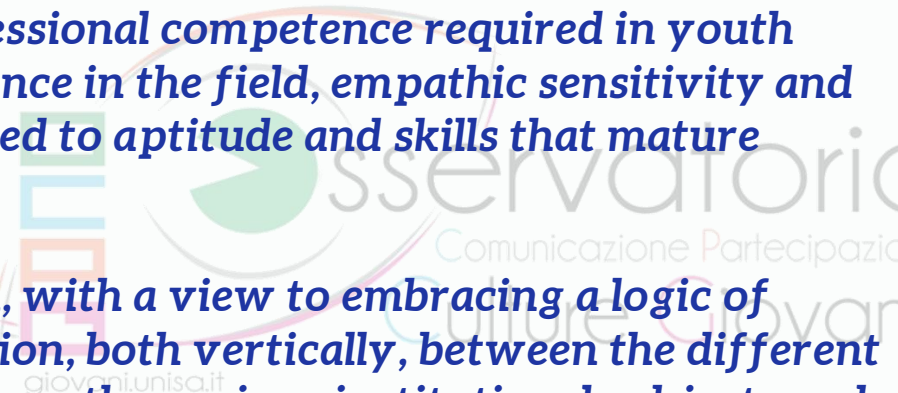

# «Our Research and empirical results»

*"Youth work for socio-educational challenges in Mediterranean Context"*

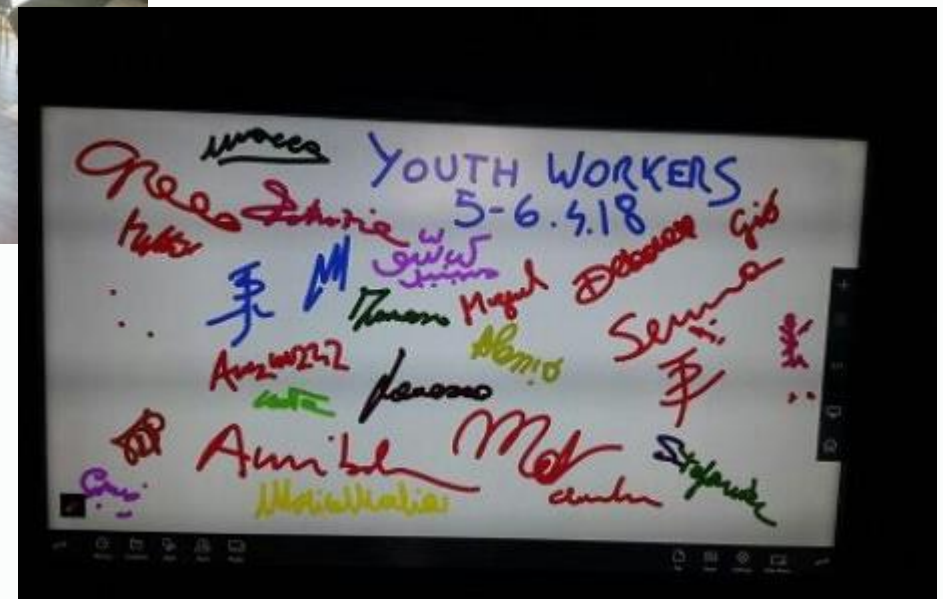
- *What the focus?* identify current point of view concerning Youth Work
- *The subjects included in the research:* 10 local + 10 national



# "What do the results tell us?"

- a positive vision of youth work, which is not deemed to be a process for the prevention of risks but primarily a manner of supporting social and civic growth;
  - a concept of youth work linked more to the structuring of identity and social inclusion than to training activities;
  - a transversal nature in terms of the recipients; it is not opportune to restrict youth work to segments of disadvantaged young people and it should be available to all members of the younger generations, according to the needs of particular groups;
  - the trans-disciplinary nature of the professional competence required in youth work and the indispensable role of experience in the field, empathic sensitivity and interpersonal skills which are strictly related to aptitude and skills that mature through practice.
  - the cross-border nature of the profession, with a view to embracing a logic of cooperative networking and interconnection, both vertically, between the different territorial levels, and also horizontally, among the various institutional subjects and with private and social actors;
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- 

- 5-6 April 2018 - Naples (Italy)



# ...An important step in youth work field

• 5-6 April 2018 - Naples (Italy)

## MACRO-AREAS

Projects and programs;  
Resources and spaces;  
Work in team  
Communication and relation;  
Multi-cultural competences;  
Networking;  
Evaluation and promotion;  
Promotion/Partecipation/Responsabilities;



I'm a  
professional  
Youth Worker!





# Shaping Summer School...

## Content:

workshop;  
non-formal education;  
short courses;  
best practices sharing;

## Awards:

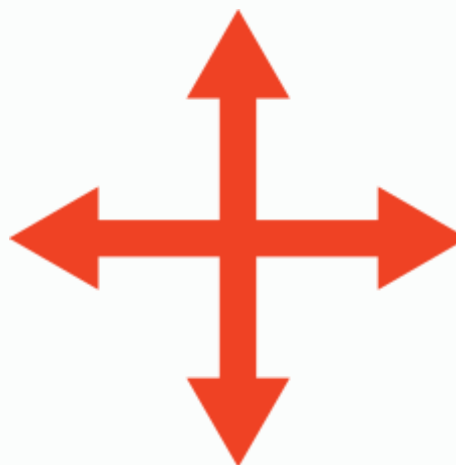
Academic Certification;  
A wealth of knowledge  
ready to be spread  
throughout Europe;

## Beneficiaries:

Youth workers;  
Trainers;  
social innovators;

## Contributors:

Association member;  
Actors from Education  
field;  
Policy makers



# ...Your contribution for setting the "Summer School"

## Dimensions and indicators to define youth work

### Promoting strengths and change

1. Using a strengths based, solution focussed approach to our work with young people
2. Recognising the worth of all young people and building on their assets and strengths
3. Helping young people make their own choices and learn from their own experiences
4. Showing young people what is possible and helping them achieve their own goals
5. Helping young people who need it to navigate the best possible pathway in life.
6. Being role models ourselves: setting an example in our own community
7. Building young people's belief in the possibility of change and their capacity to contribute to positive social and individual change
8. Helping young people to adjust to change and harness opportunities

### Culture, place and identity

1. Supporting positive connections between young people, their families and the broader community
2. Recognising the diversity amongst young people, and listening to and valuing individual young people's needs, ideas and choices
3. Supporting the development of young people's identity as an individual, within their family and as part of broader communities
4. Encouraging and supporting young people to take responsibility as active global, national and local citizens
5. Advocating for young people within their family and community
6. Recognising the integral relationship between young people and their family, community and society
7. Recognising that young people identify with a range of different cultures and supporting them in developing their own identity

### Working ethically

1. Being conscious of our structural power as a Youth Worker, and not taking power over young people
2. Particularly recognising the cultural context of marginalised young people and taking responsibility for learning to work in a culturally appropriate way
3. Being responsible for what we do, being able to justify it and remaining careful of how we use our power and influence with young people and their families.
4. Being clear about our ethical responsibilities to ourselves, young people, families, communities etc.
5. Being proud of our identity as a Youth Worker: supporting one another, seeking to ensure new colleagues understand what Youth Work means.

### Meeting young people's needs

1. Providing proactive and holistic support to young people
2. Providing young people with linkages to other services and supporting them in accessing these
3. Providing practical, useful support to address young people's real situations and needs including being able to provide consistent, longer term services for young people who may require more intensive support.
4. Using an integrated and broad range of models, tools and approaches consistent with providing youth centred, culturally appropriate services and supports.
5. Providing flexible support for young people outside formal systems.
6. Being prepared to offer diverse, flexible services and work in a multi-skilled way.

### Providing informal, youth centred support

1. Working at the young person's pace
2. Maintaining young people's confidentiality
3. Remaining open-minded about people's backgrounds and circumstances and treating each situation individually
4. Providing youth centred services and supports in a friendly and informal way
5. Being there for young people
6. Genuinely caring about young people

### Promoting youth rights and empowerment

1. Respecting and promoting young people's rights
2. Ensuring young people's voices are heard within their families and the broader community
3. Being solid and proud defenders of "youth culture:" challenging negative assumptions made about young people in our communities.
4. Encouraging and supporting young people to be agents of change at both a personal and social level
5. Helping young people to understand their rights
6. Lobbying the government to improve the situation for young people
7. Promoting the actual and potential contributions of young people to the wider community

Source: Archer 2012

# Discussing content survey



1) According to the "Youth Work dimensions" proposed by Archer, which of those do you think are crucial to reach and define an European and homogeneous vision of youth work? Motivate your answer.





# Discussing content survey



2) The youth worker presents heterogeneous "soft" skills, to whose extremes we find:

- support for young people in acquiring self-esteem and decision making autonomy;
- support and orientation to choices strictly related to training and work.

*How much and to what extent do you feel are crucial in increasing your profile? Are there any other skills that you consider to be decisive in this regard?*

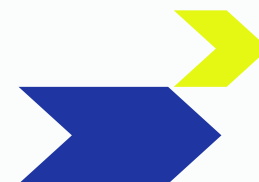


# Discussing content survey



3) What previous "formal and technical competences (such as social research, pedagogy, psychology, law, political science and so forth) have been decisive in forming you as a youth worker?

Motivate your answer.



# Thank you for coming!





# Central Zoom Out Questions

