

The background of the slide features a photograph of a group of people, mostly young women, gathered around a large presentation screen. They appear to be in a meeting or workshop setting. In the foreground, there is a stylized illustration of a hand holding a smartphone. The slide is decorated with orange and yellow vertical bands. On the yellow bands, there are white line-art icons: a lightbulb in the top left and several gears in the bottom left. The text is centered in a white box with an orange border.

**Digital elements in
learning mobility projects –
Results of the research project
"IYW.digital"**

ijAB

Findings based on...

- **Online symposium with youth work experts, 2020**
→ Expert report „Changes and need for action in view of the digital transformation of international youth work”
(Brüggen et al. 2021; JFF - Institute for Media Education in Research and Practice)
- **Research project „International Youth Work.digital“ 21-22**
→ Final report of the scientific monitoring
(Koschei/ Brüggen 2023; JFF)
- **Compilation of pedagogical and methodological expertise**
→ Meet – join –Connect! Digital International Youth Work
– A methodology
(IJAB 2022)



Digital media...



As a tool

The focus is on digitalising youth work services to make them more accessible, up to date and relevant

- Participation in decision making with digital tools
- Using social media applications to reach young people
- Online counselling with vulnerable young people



As an activity

The focus is on learning by doing and hands-on activities

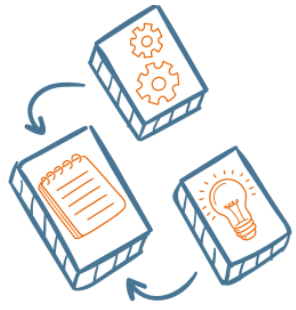
- Gaming groups to foster a positive gaming culture
- Maker projects to develop 21st century skills
- Collective learning to create digital media



As content

The focus is on issues related to digitalisation

- Discussing relationships and behaviours online
- Exploring themes relating to digitalisation and digital literacies
- Empowering young people to champion their digital rights



Asynchronous

Synchronous



Group

Blended

Formats of digital YW

Hybrid

Digital Tools

Online



Individual participation

Mixed



Opportunities and Challenges

More varied and more accessible formats

- Mixed types of formats with many elements
- Duration varies according to objectives and participants' daily lives
- Removes mobility limitations due to a disability, difficult political situation, residence status, lack of visa, financial situation
- Familiar environment, reduced social interaction, anonymity



New obstacles to participation

- No or low-performing devices
- Unstable internet connection
- Lack of private space
- Barriers for participants with visual, speech or hearing impairments

- ✓ Develop a hybrid format: offline and online elements sensibly combined
- ✓ Digital mindset "Think it digital"
- ✓ Learning objective → Methodology → Tools
- ✓ Reach out to new target groups

Opportunities and Challenges

Acquisition of competences/media literacy

- Acquisition of technical know-how regarding the tools and devices used
- Reflection on one's own media consumption
- Becoming aware of and utilising existing media skills
- Creating media products
- Easier coordination/planning processes for project preparation
- More frequent and intensive contact between partner organisations



Need for specific competences/ressources

- ✓ Media- and tool-related preparation and training necessary (for team and participants)
- ✓ Provide participants and organisations with the necessary devices
- ✓ Provide additional staff for technical support, define roles
- ✓ Additional coordination required between the partner organisations: technical requirements/ possibilities, relevance of data privacy, design, methodology...

Opportunities and Challenges



Insights into individual lifestyles

- Low-threshold insights into lifeworlds and everyday life of participants from every country
- From a live tour of one's apartment, a youth centre or neighbourhood during an online session -
- to a preproduced follow-me-around video in which participants record a day in their life
- Online settings provide a “neutral” country-independent place
- Opportunity to focus on new and diverse, culture-independent differences and similarities

More obstacles to intercultural exchange

- Difficult to immerse in other worlds and traditions, tasting food and drinks, in a different language environment

- ✓ Consciously design the online space: host principle, or country neutrality, thematic sessions?
- ✓ Show videos or play audio recordings produced by participants to introduce region/city
- ✓ Cook and eat together
- ✓ Watch a local film together (and comment)
- ✓ Provide opportunities for informal exchanges
- ✓ Digital Language Animation

Opportunities and Challenges



New communication channels

- Platforms/ videoconferencing enable simultaneous interpretation into various languages
- Translation services (e.g. AI-supported)
- Speech-to-text interpretation / live captions can be provided for hearing-impaired participants
- Choice of oral or written participation via chat
- New possibilities for language animation
- Messenger services and social media enable young people to stay in contact

More difficult communication

- Difficult to recognise facial expressions/ gestures
- Side conversations/ whispering not possible
- Microphone/ camera must be actively switched on
- Technical difficulties

- ✓ Use a methodology that enables interaction, intercultural exchange and that encourages lively communication (e.g. Actionbound, language animation)
- ✓ Create informal spaces (e.g. Gather.town)

Challenges and Opportunities



Greater scope for participation

- Possible to actively involve participants in advance:
 - Objectives and content of the project,
 - programme, sessions,
 - "products",
 - digital tools used
- Opportunity to involve and activate young people's (media) skills
- Helps to ensure that an activity is designed so that it reflects the reality of the participants

Reduced commitment

- Long intervals between meetings
- Everyday commitments
- Time differences
- Possibility to switch off camera and microphone

- ✓ Plan short, interactive and varied formats that facilitate active exchange between participants
- ✓ Plan tasks in between sessions
- ✓ Draw up a netiquette together
- ✓ Involve participants and participants' competences

A glimpse into the future

- **Funding:** schemes and criteria for flexible, hybrid formats,...
- **AI in learning mobility:** Quality and funding counselling, methodological advice, applications and reports,...
- **Skills, attitude and training:** quality criteria, develop a digital mindset/ methodology, mixed and hybrid formats,...
- **Sustainability Aspects:** less travelling, less paper, energy consumption, data protection, big tech dominance,...



Contact

Ulrike Werner, e-mail: werner@ijab.de

Website of the project:

<https://ijab.de/en/projects/digital-international-youth-work>



Fachstelle für Internationale Jugendarbeit
der Bundesrepublik Deutschland e.V.