EESC Public Hearing
“Validation of skills and qualifications acquired through non-formal and informal learning”

Panel 1 – Learning outcomes of non-formal and informal learning

“The Impact of non-formal education in youth organisations on young people’s employability”

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By Jo Deman, European Youth Forum
EUROPEAN YOUTH FORUM

A European Platform for youth organisations
Entirely run by young people

We represent 99 youth organisations, which are themselves federations of youth organisations

We bring together tens of millions of young people from all over Europe and represents their common interests and fights for their rights.
YOUTH ORGANISATIONS AS EDUCATIONAL PROVIDERS

- Non-formal education (NFE): key activity of youth organisations

- NFE is an organised educational process that takes place outside the traditional learning settings (school, university, or vocational education and training institutions) and has clearly defined learning objectives
YOUTH ORGANISATIONS
AS EDUCATIONAL PROVIDERS

- Participation is voluntary and young people involved take an active role in the learning process

- Learner at the center of the process; learning by doing methodology

- Different types of NFE programmes provided: camps, trainings/workshops, exchange programmes, artistic and sports activities, seminars, community projects, etc.
Through their involvement in educational activities in youth organisations, young people develop a set of transversal competences (attitudes, skills and knowledge), valuable for their personal, social and civic, and professional life.
Research Study on the Impact of Non-Formal Education in Youth Organisations on Young People’s Employability

COMMISSIONED BY THE YOUTH FORUM
AUTHORED BY UNIVERSITY OF BATH/GHK
CONSULTING
Project Surveys

245 youth organisations
1,301 young people

Eurobarometer and existing employers surveys

Focus Groups & 11 in-depth interviews with employers
Competences development in NFE in youth organisations

1. Team work
2. Communication
3. Self-confidence
4. Organisational skills
5. Decision-making
6. Leadership
7. Intercultural skills
8. Problem solving
9. Adaptability&/flexibility
10. Entrepreneurship
11. Creativity
12. Foreign languages
13. Emotional intelligence
List of skills most demanded by employers / Skills developed greater through NFE

1. COMMUNICATION  
2. ORGANISATION/PLANNING  
3. DECISION-MAKING  
4. TEAMWORK  
5. CONFIDENCE/AUTONOMY  
6. NUMERACY/ LITERACY  
7. PROBLEM-SOLVING  
8. IT  
9. FOREIGN LANGUAGE  
10. SECTOR SPECIFIC SKILLS  
11. LEADERSHIP
✓ FREQUENCY & DURATION OF PARTICIPATION

GREATER INVOLVEMENT, HIGHER LEVEL SKILLS....

FOR ALL SKILLS
PERIODS ABROAD HAVE VALUE FOR ALL SKILLS

Specifically:
* FOREIGN LANGUAGE
* INTERCULTURAL SKILLS
* LEADERSHIP SKILLS
HIGHLY ORGANISED EDUCATIONAL & ASSESSMENT PLAN

MORE SKILLS DEVELOPED...

- communication
- decision-making
- foreign languages
- organisation
- creativity
- adaptability
BEYOND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT: INVOLVEMENT IN YOUTH ORGANISATIONS CREATES NETWORKS & CONNECTIONS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE
DEGREE TO WHICH INVOLVEMENT IN YOUTH ORGANISATIONS LEADS TO SOCIAL CAPITAL THAT CAN BE USED IN EMPLOYMENT SEARCH

- Yes, contacts gained have made me aware of employment opportunities: 36%
- Yes, they have already helped me in employment matters: 21%
- Yes, although they have not helped me yet: 32%
- Contacts made are useful, but not in finding employment: 31%
- No: 9%
- Do not know / no answer: 6%
AND IT ALSO...

- broadens occupations & geographical locations considered (enhances mobility)
- stimulates job searches
- gives new vocations
CONCLUSIONS

• Promoting opportunities for participation in youth organisations

• Recognising of competences gained through NFE in youth organisations: through self-recognition tools & validation arrangements

• Removing barriers to mobility (admin barriers to non-EU)