



Empowering
young people

ANNUAL EVENT & GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Skills & Knowledge Transfer

14 - 16 June 2023, Vienna (Austria)

REPORT

Summary

YES Forum held its General Assembly and Annual Event 2023 in Vienna (AT) in collaboration with ÖJAB. The event, organised in the frame of the European Year of Skills, focused on “Skills and knowledge transfer”.

39 participants from 20 organisations from 12 countries strengthened their abilities and gained new skills through the exchange with other professionals in different workshops.

Participants got familiar with the challenges of **intergenerational dialogue at the workplace** and discovered the benefits of the **Photovoice method** by taking part in a short exercise themselves. **Mental health** on youth and social work was also in the spotlight, as well as experiences on **fostering youth participation** in Bratislava and **transnational cooperation beyond the European Union**. New projects and ideas were also discussed during the **Project Planning Session**.

Moreover, participants had the chance to know first-hand the work ÖJAB is carrying out in the frame of the **AusbildungsFit Programme** and at its **Vocational Training Institute**.

Wednesday, 14th June

A look behind the scenes: a BRIDGE for dialogue

The YES Forum Annual Event started with the introduction of the BRIDGE project, focused on intergenerational dialogue at workplaces and led by Internationaler Bund (DE). Julia Probst from ÖJAB (AT) and Çağla Ezgi Yildiz from YES Forum (DE) explained the project's objectives and the work done during the last two years.

Participants got an insight into the main results of the survey carried out in the frame of the project. Its conclusions served as a basis for several recommendations targeting policymakers, organisations and staff, which were also introduced in the session.

Afterwards, participants had the chance to exchange their experiences and ideas on the topic in a World-café workshop. The main topics for the discussion were “Recruitment of staff/Keeping staff by organisations”, “Upskilling of staff”, “Creating a nice work atmosphere”, “How teams work/How to foster a team spirit” and “Intergenerational challenges”.

[Materials on intergenerational dialogue at work](#)



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Thursday, 15th June

YES Forum General Assembly

Following the statutes, the General Assembly reviewed the projects and activities as well as the finances of 2022. The balance sheet for 2022 was approved by the members and the Board released from accountability. The network's financial situation is stable, with a positive outlook for 2023.

The Board outlined a new membership fee policy to members, stating that it has been designed to reflect different economic realities between members. A communication will be sent to all EEIG members explaining the details of this new policy.

Members also elected a new board. Hannah Degermann (Pitea Kommun), Gwen Birza (Jongerenwerk Barkema an de Haan), Sebastian Frank (ÖJAB) and Liliika Trikalinou (IEKEP) were elected for another two years term. Andreas Koth (Internationaler Bund) joined as a new member. Alexander Hauser left the board after six years. Thank you, Alex, for your commitment during these years! And all the best to the newly formed Board!

Separate communication to the EEIG members including the minutes will follow.

Project Planning Session

A group of 10 participants from 10 different organisations took part in the project planning session. 5 organisations presented their ideas for new projects. They covered very different topics, such as projects on accessible rail for disabled people (UK), regional development focusing on entrepreneurship (NL), tackling high drop-out rates in upper secondary schools (SE), connecting with and integrating young people from rural areas (ES), and communication and emotional work in youth work (DE).

The participants brainstormed and further developed the project ideas in smaller working groups. The discussions also served to explore collaboration opportunities, potential project partners and shared interests among the organisations involved.

Specific report and working materials will follow.

Photovoice workshop

A small group discovered the advantages of using the Photovoice method in youth and social work by participating themselves in a short exercise. After an introduction to the method and its process, participants experienced the Photovoice methodology by answering the question "How would you explain the advantages of participating in EU elections?" through pictures.

The practical approach highlighted the multiple possibilities youth and social workers have to apply this method into their daily work.

[Exercise's results](#)

[Additional material on Photovoice](#)

Expertise exchange workshops

Intending to get a better insight into how other organisations work, gaining new skills through peers, and together strengthening our abilities and the network, some of our members and partners led three workshops to share their expertise. The sessions led to insightful discussions that enriched the exchange between professionals from different countries and backgrounds.

The workshops were:

- [Showcase from Bratislava: fostering participation of vulnerable youth](#), led by Alena Chudžíková and Michaela Pířová from the Centre for the Research of Ethnicity and Culture (CVEK)
- [Mental health in youth and social work](#), led by Gwen Birza from Jongerenwerk Barkema en de Haan and Dimitra Basiakou from IEKEP
- [International Cooperation beyond Europe](#), led by Andreas Koth from Internationaler Bund

Friday, 16th June

Study visits for professionals: ÖJAB's Vocational Training Institute and the Ausbildungs Fit programme

The Annual Event was closed with study visits to the ÖJAB's work in the city of Vienna: its Vocational Training Institute and the Ausbildungs Fit programme.

Participants learnt about the work done in the metal, glass and electronic training programmes and their approach to ensure the best outcomes for students, such as offering parallel language courses.

They also took a glimpse into the personalised approach of the Ausbildungs Fit programme to close the gap young people from disadvantaged backgrounds face when entering the labour market.

[Ausbildungs Fit presentation](#)

Save the date! – Upcoming events

Policy Event – What language does the EU speak?

From: November 14th, 13:00 (approx.)

To: November 15th, 14:00 (approx.)

Place: Brussels, BE

Annual Event 2024

Date: 11 – 13 June 2024

Place: Piteå, SE