



# Developing quality and competence in youth work

**KEKS** is a network of municipal departments for youth work and partner organisations from all over Europe\*.

## **We believe:**

- that the over-all aim of youth work is to support the personal and social development of young people.
- that the mission of youth work is to stimulate and support activities that are based on and requires young people's active engagement and responsibility.

## **We see:**

- youth work as an arena for informal and non-formal learning.
- youth centres and projects, as well as different kinds of culture and leisure activities, as means for reaching our aims.

## **We know** that in order to do this we must:

- base our activities on the needs, interests and experiences of young people as perceived by themselves and meet them as capable individuals and resources.
- be actively inclusive and reach out to and welcome all groups of young people.

## **We argue:**

- that participation is a process, from creation to evaluation, that should be owned and run by young people.
- that participation leads to health and resilience, to the development of skills, attitudes and values, and to active citizenship.

**We claim that this participatory process and the learning it creates is, and should be seen as, the core outcome and aim of youth work.**

## Based on these ideas **we have:**

- common measurable aims regarding both quantitative outputs and qualitative effects.
- a common web-based system for documentation and follow up (see next page).

## **This means that:**

- we can show to what degree we reach our aims.
- we have a solid ground for systematic and continuous development.
- we can make knowledge-based advocacy for youth work.

On the basis of this **KEKS' main task** is to support our members in the development of competence, methods and organisation. We do this through seminars, courses, work groups and tutoring as well as through publishing manuals and guidelines. We also engage in research.

We are governed by a main board, based on eight regional boards, where all our members have a seat and we finance our operations mainly through membership fees, but also through project funding from, among others, the EU.

**Do you want to know more?** Please visit [www.keks.se/eng](http://www.keks.se/eng) or send an email to [info@keks.se](mailto:info@keks.se)

\* Today we have more than 70 member municipalities, whereof ca 60 in Sweden, 9 in Slovenia and 3 in Finland and members and partner organisations in Slovenia, Ireland and Greece. KEKS is also members of the InterCity Youth network, with members also in Belgium, The Netherlands, Italy, Bulgaria and Georgia.

## **Becoming an e–member\* of KEKS entails free access to our web-based system for documentation and follow up, The Logbook, containing:**

Our annual youth centre questionnaire to young people, which gives you:

- A complete picture of your operations regarding
  - ✓ How well you reach your target group.
  - ✓ How young people experience the social atmosphere, treatment and accessibility
  - ✓ To what degree young people are actively participating.
  - ✓ To what degree young people take part in decision-making.

Our group/project questionnaire, which gives you:

- A complete picture on how your group activities are functioning regarding
  - ✓ Which young people you reach.
  - ✓ To what degree they are actively participating and how they perceive ownership and support.
  - ✓ How youth workers handle young people's participation and learning.
- ... both in general and in regard to specific groups.

Our system for documentation, containing:

- A complete system for documentation of statistics regarding activity hours, number of visitors/participants, what kind of activities they take part in and much more.
- An on-line diary for making notes and structured analysis, as well as for efficient communication between youth workers.
- A template for registering key-figures regarding costs, size of target group, etc.
- A report function where you can compile results from various periods as a basis for analysis and reports.

Our annual compilation of results, which gives you:

- The relation between your costs and the quality you deliver.
- The ability to see how your results develop over time.
- The possibility of making comparisons between your results and the results of others.

Last, but not least, e–members:

- Get a two-days introduction to our views on youth work and The Logbook.
- Get online support in using The Logbook
- Get access to our vast network of contacts, including authorities, educators and researchers all over Europe.
- Can take part in all of our competence development activities at self-cost.
- Have a seat in one of our regional boards, where all regional activities are planned and decided.
- Become a part of a dynamic network, leading in the development of youth work.

\* e–membership is open to non-Swedish local departments for youth work. Other organisations, e.g. NGOs, can become partners and also get access to the system, but not become members.

