

KEKS common ground

The overarching aim of KEKS is to support the further development of youth work. Our foundation is the Council of Europe recommendation on youth work (CM/Rec(2017)4) and the European Charter on Local Youth Work.

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 non-formal and informal 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, ideas 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 that should be owned and run by young people.
- that participation leads to health and resilience, and to the development of the knowledge, skills, attitudes and values that young people need in order to form their own future and to be active citizens.

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

In order to promote knowledge based youth work and a reflective practice, KEKS has developed The Logbook, a web based system for documentation and follow up of youth work. The basic idea behind The Logbook is to gather information about both quantitative and qualitative aspects of the youth work carried out by the users – information related to our overarching aims that is then to be used for analysis and the further development of youth work.

The use of The Logbook is crucial to the further development of youth work and it also forms the basis for knowledge based advocacy and the further strengthening and recognition of youth work. All members are therefore expected to actively use The Logbook. However, for some non-Swedish members there might be acceptable reasons for not using The Logbook. Exceptions from this requirement might therefore be done if so decided by KEKS secretary general.