



Erasmus+ Contact Making Seminar



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INTRODUCTION

WHAT DID WE DO?

This booklet has been carried out in the scope of the Contact Making Seminar **"Let's Connect"** (project No. 2022-1-BG01-KA153-YOU-000055316) which is funded by the **Erasmus+ Programme** of the European Union. The seminar brought together 24 rural youth workers from 8 countries to develop networking competencies and build a community for the improvement of rural youth centers work. The seminar took place in **Bakuriani, Georgia** from the 20th to 28th of November 2022. It was led by the Bulgarian organization **"Youth movement for the development of the rural areas in Bulgaria"** and hosted by the Georgian youth organization **Umbrella**.

WHY DID WE DO IT?

Rural young people have fewer opportunities compared to their urban peers. It refers to **educational, economic, infrastructural, social** and **other challenges**. The rural realities are different, that's why it requires different approaches to solve the issue.

Youth work as a responsible field for personal and social youth development is one of the key actors of the field that could bring positive impact. Youth centers and youth organizations operating in rural areas are essential spaces for development of young people. They have specific work approaches, challenges, methods, and policies that they work for. Youth workers who are a part of rural youth centers are in a need to exchange the best practices in the fast-changing world and to be updated according to the challenges and needs that emerge nowadays in the field.

The project "Let's Connect" aims to develop the quality of youth work in rural youth centers by developing networking competencies and building youth workers' communities around the idea of innovation.

The main objectives of the project are as follows:

- To explore the challenges/needs of rural youth and find solutions via cooperation and innovation in the field of youth work;
- To establish a network of rural youth workers and collaboration among them;
- To share good practices in rural youth work including the digital youth work applied to the rural youth centers;
- To create intellectual visual outcome with good practices for rural youth workers;
- To promote intercultural dialogue and exchange among the participants;
- To promote international networking of rural youth centers;
- To explore further possibilities for cooperation on this topic within the Erasmus+.

WHO DID IT?

The booklet has been created by the participants in the Contact Making Seminar “Let’s Connect” and has been designed by the team of facilitators.

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PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS

Youth Mix (Armenia)

YMDRAB (Bulgaria)

Umbrella (Host) (Georgia)

GUTTA (Moldova)

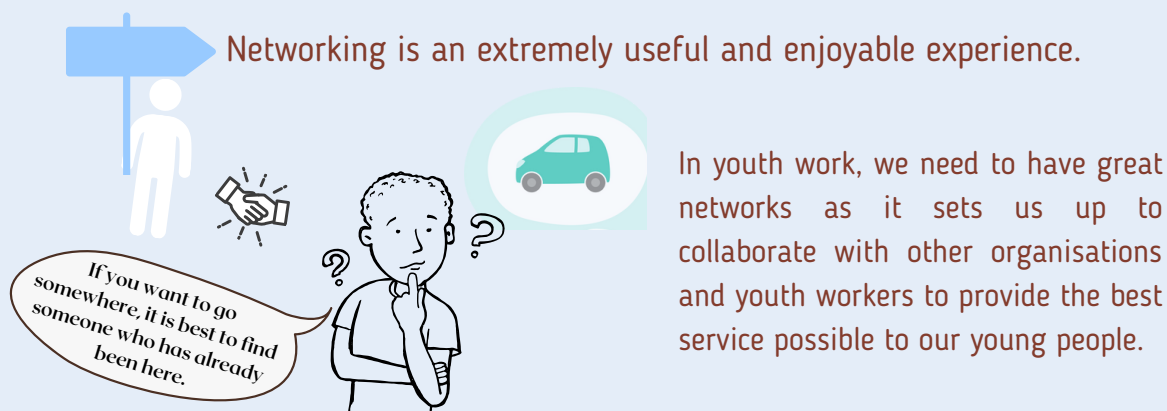
AEQUALITAS (Portugal)

FOCO (Spain)

Sunflower (Turkey)

Development & Initiative (Ukraine)

Need of the network



Youth work plays a massive role in supporting young people from rural areas to overcome barriers in their lives. Their access to quality youth services that are providing possibilities for personal and social development is very limited and often totally inaccessible.

During the third European Youth Work Convention, the participating youth workers from the EU and COE member states and other stakeholders strongly recognized the need for an international network of youth workers. Network as the main tool to give youth workers a voice and support peer learning, and quality developments in the youth sector across Europe.



Five reasons why networking is important for rural youth worker

Have an informal and collaborative space to develop skills through the exchange of experiences, information and resources.



Opportunities to develop partnership



Discussion and coordination of funding/shared co-funding



Support the development of new rural youth organisations

Lobby and highlight the problems and needs of rural youth to focus the attention of international and national bodies, as well as the general public

Rural youth realities in 8 countries

During the seminar we summarized and highlighted the fundamental obstacles faced by rural young people in 8 participant countries (Georgia, Ukraine, Moldova, Armenia, Spain, Portugal, Bulgaria, and Türkiye).

Lack of:

- **Access to tailored opportunities.**
- **Information**
- **Motivation**



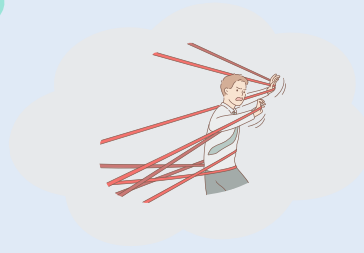
- **Infrastructural problems (old and amortized facilities, public transport) mostly in Georgia and Armenia**



- **Unemployment and lack of educational opportunities. (no colleges, etc.)**
- **Lack of teachers, youth workers, educators...**



• Financial difficulties



• Health care



• Hard agricultural work
• lack of extracurricular activities and places
(practice sports, learn instruments)



• Human rights problems
(inequality, discrimination,
hate speech, etc.)



During the seminar, participants illustrated rural youth issues via short performancies.





NETWORKING IDEA

We found that there are a lot of youth workers around the world who are really good in work with youth in their countries. But they don't know the real situation in other countries. That's why a great idea comes to our mind – create a youth workers network. It's possible to discover a different point of view, share experience, and ideas, and find partners for creating new projects.

the networking part

what ways youth workers can connect with each other?

how it actually works?



Then, developed a **network** for youth workers.

Objectives



- To give youth workers a platform to connect with one another globally
- To exchange expertise, information, methods, and practices.
- To develop fresh initiatives, programs, and resources





Platform

The most convenient way to connect people from all around the world is through **digital technologies**. Because of that, we decided to connect via **Telegram** and **Facebook** social platforms.



We chose Telegram as it is the most secure and private social media tool so we can be sure of our **privacy**, and we can organize our needs in a proper way, and Facebook, because we want to be **available for everyone**.



The **Google Form** is another tool that we created to understand the compatibility of young people and youth work.

Another networking tool is a **video** which will help us to motivate people to find connections and raise the interest of youth workers among the youth.

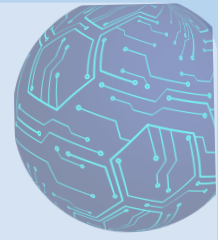


Why would you join?



- To find partners
- To improve the competences of facilitating learning, designing programs, managing resources, collaborating in teams, communicating meaningfully, displaying intercultural sensitivity, networking and advocating, assessing and evaluating, and being civically engaged.

Digital Tools for Youth Workers



Digital technologies have enabled unprecedented levels of communication, community building, and social interaction, breaking the barriers of location, time, and social context. And youth workers from rural area use it as an effective tool in their youth work.


Technologies help to facilitate many processes, such as:

1. GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER



QR Code Generator game. "QR" stands for "Quick Response", which refers to instant access to the information hidden in the Code. It is quite easy to add data for your QR code - link to website, contact information, text, Facebook page, PDF file, image, or music.

2. EVALUATION

For evaluating the project, the digital tool that can be used is  **Mentimeter**. It is an online polling tool that can add an interactive element to presentation, or recorded session. Question types include Multiple Choice, Ranking, Scales, Word Cloud and Open Ended, among others. It can be used for icebreakers, checking knowledge... Additional features: quiz mode for collecting information, and a Q&A

3. TEAM BUILDING

Gather Town is an interactive virtual space that simulates real-life, in-person interactions. With an 8-bit pixelized video game aesthetic and familiar online video and chat features. Users create an avatar who can seamlessly move in and out of interactions and conversations with other participants they encounter and explore galleries of digital objects such as videos and sound files.



How to use it?

A large room (named "Weitz236") can hold up to about 200 concurrent people, with 10 private spaces

A mid-sized room (named "Weitz235") can hold up to 50 concurrent people, with 8 private spaces that each have 9 "chairs" and a podium to address everyone in the space at once

Virtual outside space (named "Gus Day") suitable for up to ~200 concurrent people, 6 private spaces, a shared game area,

5. BRAINSTORMING



Slack - The best tool for project management. You can manage the project together with your team mates, online collaboration tools, share files, search through conversation archives to find relevant information.

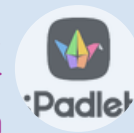
4. MEETINGS



video meeting platform to meet your colleagues from your youth organisation and brainstorm to find the best for your youth project.

6. REFLECTION

Padlet can be used whenever you need to gather thoughts, ideas, examples, experiences, etc from a group of people, be it your colleagues, partners, team members, or participants in an educational activity.



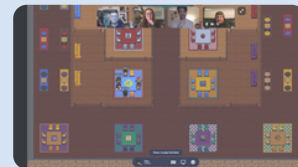
7. PROMOTIONS



With Pages, you can create a page for your organisation, project, program, activity, etc. People who like and follow your page will get information about it on their news feeds.

8. GAMES

Gather town is a virtual town that enables real-time simulation of different places informal space for exchange, discussion and making virtual spaces to bring people together.



9. ONLINE LEARNING

Wordwall can be used to create both interactive and printable activities. They can be played individually by students, or be teacher-led with students taking turns at the front of the class.

10. PRESENTATION



is the world's largest coding community for children and a coding language to create digital stories, games, and animations. Scratch promotes computational thinking and problem-solving skills, creative teaching and learning, self-expression and collaboration, and equity in computing. Scratch is always **free** and is available in more than **70 languages**.

Youth tools and legislation in 8 countries

Armenia



“Youth Mix” is a **non-governmental**, nonprofit organization founded in 2013 and officially registered in 2016 by a group of **Young enthusiasts**, who decided to combine their efforts on common goals. Our work is based on a **non-formal methodology**.



- Share values of respect for human dignity, liberty, democracy, equality
- Encourage youth entrepreneurship
- Promote active participation of youth in social life
- Develop cooperation between young people in Armenia and abroad
- Contribute to the intercultural learning and cross cultural dialogue
- Develop non-formal education
- Stimulate active and healthy lifestyle among youth
- Share information about ongoing and upcoming youth events, projects, seminars, training courses Founder/President



As digital media has a significantly big impact on society it is very important to master digital tools. As for communication and targeting the youth Youth Mix use different online platform, like Canva, [Facebook](#), Youtube, Google Drive...

Along with these tools, they use manuals and booklets designed specifically for and working with young people. “[Youth Practice](#)” is handbook created supported by the European Union. The manual was developed of the basis of the teaching modules of the subject “Youth work in practice”.



Legal Documents

The Armenian government regulates the creation and future functions of NGOs. The law demands that NGOs have nonprofit profiles and have a position of “**legal entity**”.

The property can be provided by the government for use of the organization or it can be provided by the organization itself.

The law is preventing the organization to be in economic competition and violating the rules of the organization that was stated in the creation process.

The principles of the organization's activity are:

- 1) legality.
- 2) exclusion of discrimination.
- 3) conscientiousness.
- 4) commonality of members' interests.
- 5) voluntary membership.
- 6) self-government.
- 7) accountability.



The source of formation of the organization's property can be:

- 1) Contributions of members of the organization.
- 2) Payments of members of the organization (membership fees).
- 3) funds received from entrepreneurial activity.
- 4) funds received from another organization created by him or with his participation;
- 5) cash receipts from the state budget.
- 6) donations, including grants;
- 8) other means not prohibited by law.



Hayk, Knarik, Liana

Bulgaria

"Youth movement for development of the rural areas in Bulgaria" (YMDRAB) is a non-profit organization, with headquarters and address of management in the town of Botevgrad.



Main objectives are to: assist and encourage the free initiative of young people in rural areas; generate new ideas for supporting the personal development of rural youth; cooperate and exchange information and experiences with other organizations and responsible institutions at different levels; interact with national and international institutions in the field of non-formal youth education; promote active inclusion of rural youth in various social spheres (decision-making, cultural exchange, sports, etc.); contribute for nature protection and sustainable use of the natural resources, and others.



As a result of implemented projects, YMDRAB has developed tools for youth work in different topics:

For everyone saved a tree (FOREST) - Strategy for involvement of young people into activities for nature protection

· Think Critically Act Logically - Toolbox for combating Fake News;

· LINKS - Logopedists Interact for New Knowledge and Skills;

· We can too - Test for assessment of social communication skills in preschool children;

We can too - Test for assessment of social communication skills in school-age children

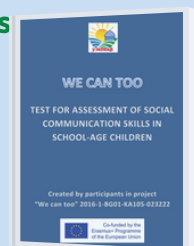
Also, some Position papers are established:

· The Voice of Youth - The Voice of Change - on the challenges and needs of young people living in the rural areas of Bulgaria;

· Stronger Together: youth collaboration for interreligious solidarity;

· People to People: social interaction between Christian and Muslim rural youngsters;

· Take my hand - on the social inclusion of the Roma Youth in the rural areas of Bulgaria.



Legal Documents

In **Bulgaria** there's a law that defines the basic principles, management and financing of the activities carried out in the implementation of the state youth policy since 2012. The state youth policy is a purposeful and consistent activity of the state, municipalities, youth organizations and society, which aims to create favorable conditions for the full personal development of young people and their participation in public and economic life, as well as their inclusion in the management of local, regional and national level through activities promoting the development of youth in the country. The National Youth Strategy defines the long-term goals and priorities of the state policy for the youth of the Republic of Bulgaria for a period of 10 years in areas such as **education, employment, equality, awareness** and **youth organizations**.



Mariia, Desislava,
Yonko

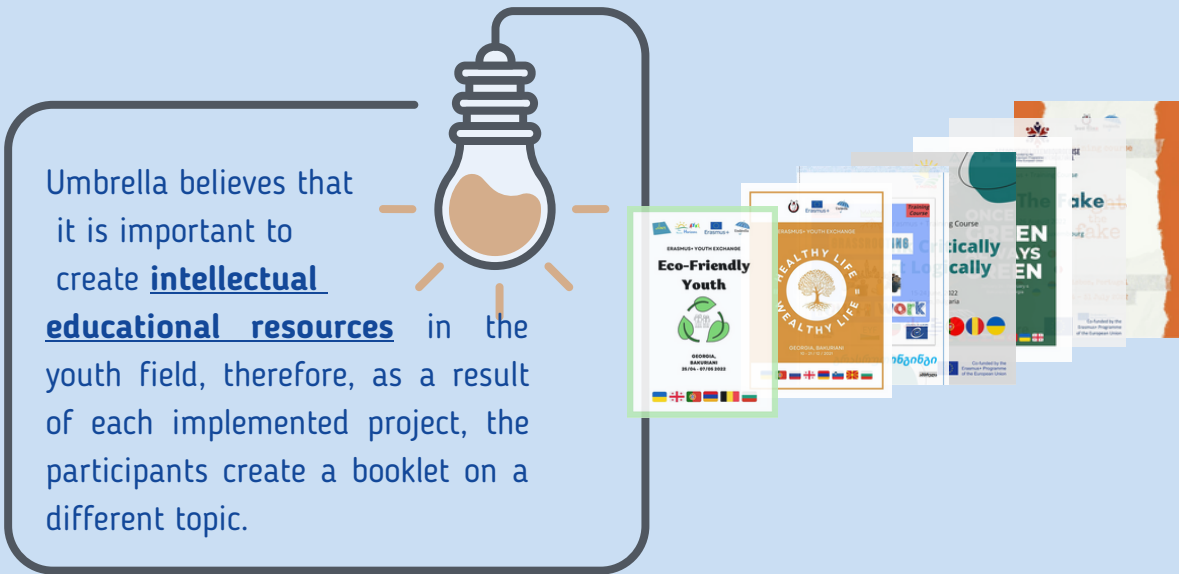


Georgia

Umbrella is a Georgian youth value-based organisation that is aiming at **educate**, **motivate** and **activate** young people aged 13-30 in Georgia and beyond, in order to be empowered and develop the communities that are coming from.



The mission of the organization is to support the young people’s progress by creating educational initiatives to develop young people’s competence in the field of **civil society**, **environment**, **human rights** and **democracy** in Georgian society. To reach the goal Umbrella adopted the strategy of setting-up **youth development spaces** to attract young people and implement various youth-led activities at local, national and international levels.



How to Set Up Youth Center is a manual for youth organizations working on grassroots level. It is aiming at **mobilizing** and **empowering** young people in the community by setting up youth development spaces. The publication was carried out within the project Start implemented in 2021 by the **Algeti Youth Center** with the mentorship of Umbrella and financial support of Youth Agency of Georgia.

Grassrooting is a practical manual for youth workers working on the grassroots (local) level. It consists of 12 days agenda program and aiming at mobilizing and empowering young people in the community. The publication was carried out within the project Grassrooting Youth Work implemented in 2021 by the Umbrella with the financial support of the **European Youth Foundation (EYF)** of Council of Europe.



Legal Documents

In 2014, the Government of Georgia approved the **"Georgian State Youth Policy Document"**, the implementation of which contributed to the empowerment of young people and laid the foundation for the state's systematic approach in this field.

Resolution of the Parliament of Georgia

Concept of youth policy of Georgia for 2020-2030

a) to develop an action plan for the implementation of the "Georgian Youth Policy Concept for 2020-2030" by April 1, 2021

Ask the municipalities, within their powers, to promote the implementation of the strategic priorities and action plan defined by the concept.

Strategic priorities

1. Active youth in public life and democratic processes participation
 2. Promotion of youth development and realization of their potential
 3. Youth health and well-being
 4. Economic empowerment of young people
 5. State youth policy at the central and municipal levels
- Driving perfection



Kote, Soso, Ketu

Moldova



The NGO "**Gutta-Club**" was registered by the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Moldova on July 19, 1996, and among the first non-governmental organizations in the country. During 26 years of activity "Gutta-Club" has implemented many projects and programs in the field of **environmental education, youth policy, climate, and energy efficiency.**



Organization "Gutta-Club" is 26 years old and the main topic of their work is promotion of the importance of ecology in our life. So, Gutta-Club members developed a lot of handbooks/booklets that are often used. For example, "**Ecological Education**" is a book, that is used by pupils and teachers in many schools in Moldova, especially in **rural area.**



Gutta-Club developed a guide about the process of organization and holding an ecological summer camp for pupils from cities and rural areas to connect them. Also, Gutta-Club organization has in her own **library** many books about **renewable energy sources** and some manuals with advice how we can **economize consumption of energy.**

Legal Documents

In Republic of Moldova the only document that regulates youth work - is the law about the social associations.

This law describes its definition and regulates the process of creation and activity. All the social associations are protected by state.



Arina, Olga, Yaroslav

Spain

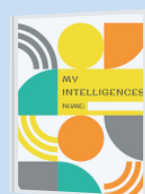


FOCO is an association founded by people coming from different fields that aims at moving the non-formal education field forward through innovative projects and initiatives. The main **aims** of the organisation are:

- To cooperate with other organisations in Spain and Europe to promote social inclusion,
- creativity, arts, culture, active citizenship, respect towards diversity
- To provide training opportunities for competence development, civic engagement,
- promotion of social values and others.
- To promote activities and projects that follow the principles of quality, relevance



FOCO use **Howard Gardner's theory** of multiple **intelligences** to understand their needs. For the development of one of its training courses funded by the Erasmus+ programme, FOCO created a booklet to use with young people to discover the 8 multiple intelligences that every human being possesses.



During the development of learning, at FOCO, often use the manual "One2One". Supporting Learning Face-to-Face, which is very useful in working with young people and with different activities.

Legal Documents

Royal Decree 50/2000, which recasts and updates the current regulations on youth

The Spanish Constitution, in its article 48, states that the public powers will promote the conditions for the free and effective participation of youth in political, social, economic and cultural development. Thus we point out in what concerns this decree the following provisions: regulates the recognition of free time schools
the Interdepartmental Youth Commission
regulates outdoor activities aimed at youth in the territory of the Galician Community.
regulates the official recognition and technical conditions of youth facilities in the area of the Autonomous Community of Galicia.
regulates the Galician Youth Information and Documentation Network.



Gonzalo,
Tabata, Adonis



Portugal

The Association for Equality **AEQUALITAS** is an NGO that was born in 2020 in Lisbon (Portugal) from the commitment of a group of people for a more just and sustainable world. The main objective is to achieve **social equity**, promoting the specific **rights** and interests of **minorities** and the most **disadvantaged groups** through the creation and implementation of projects and initiatives that contribute to the empowerment of our target audience.



Goals

Stimulate active citizenship by encouraging citizens to carry out their personal projects, always defending the values of respect and tolerance

Guide and connect people and entities that fight for human dignity through innovative methodologies and non-formal education

Promote cultural diversity and fight for access to social and human rights that guarantee personal and social well-being

Contribute to equality and social equity by promoting the specific rights and interests of minorities and disadvantaged groups



Within the scope of the "e-Formar Jovens Agricultores" Project, of which CNA is a partner entity, three training manuals were developed to support training for operators/farmers, in order to contribute to improving the quality and effectiveness of professional training of young farmers. The project, framed in the thematic area "Youth in Rural Territories and Fight Against Desertification (JLD)" under the theme "Youth - sharing and dissemination of knowledge".



Legal Documents

The most recent developments on national youth law occurred in 2011. Youth White paper intend to develop a national document setting out a comprehensive strategy and action plan in the area of Youth, like the European Commission's White Paper. It is also intended that from this White Paper there is actual practical consequences and that it can be a turning point in the political concerns of youth in Portugal.

Portuguese Government had already given priority to programmes and initiatives aimed, among other at promoting employability and mobility of youth.

Estatuto Dirigente Associativo - Statute of youth association leader. These young people may have some benefits while association leader. This statute is granted by IPJ RNAJ - RNAJ is the National Register of Youth Associations and it allows both the procedure for recognition of youth organizations and it is a determined.

EcoMap project „Road map of ecological practices in youth work in rural area and urban suburbs” create opportunities for participating organizations and youth workers to implement new environmental practices and to support youth organizations from **rural** and **suburban** areas in their transition to green sustainability.



Helena, Laryssa, Christina

Turkey



Sunflower Youth and Education Association was built at 2015 in EDİRNE city Center. Our Association is a Non-Profit Organization.

Sunflower Youth and Education Association is an Association entirely dedicated to the development of youth. Its mission is to stimulate and sustain young people's active, civic and responsible participation to the educational, social, cultural and economic environment of the communities they live in. The main objective of the organization is to increase the feeling of European citizenship. Association's working areas are the environment and climate problems, organizing cultural, art and sports events, active citizenship.



Tools are related to rural youth work which highlights the youth work ethics, the basics of youth work to help youth workers, and simple recommendations to make the process easier. The manuals used in the process are taken from Toy Gençlik youth work and youth organization



Legal Documents

MINISTRY OF YOUTH AND SPORTS YOUTH CENTERS REGULATION

The **purpose** of this Regulation is to regulate the start of the youth centers affiliated to the Ministry of Youth and Sports. **Duties of the youth center are as follows:**

- To contribute to the growth of young people as individuals
- To enable young people to carry out national and international educational, social, cultural, artistic and sports activities.
- To contribute to the healthy life of young people in terms of mental, physical, spiritual, social and emotional aspects...

This document regulates starting and ending the activity of the youth center.

The workshops and working areas that should be:

- Administrative office. b) Work office .
- At least three personal development workshops organized in accordance with theoretical and/or practical training. ç) Library or reading hall and similar places. d) Material warehouse.



Umut, Kaan, Onuralp






Ukraine

Development & Initiative, which was founded in 2015, aims to promote active citizenship, sustainable development and borderless Europe, youth mobility, cultural identity and heritage.

Typical activities of the organization

- Developing educational programs for young people, directed toward leadership, tolerance, culture promotion, social inclusion and media literacy
- Developing youth exchange programs between the youth of Ukraine and youth of other countries with the purpose of eliminating stereotypes and developing multicultural dialog and collaboration

Objectives:

-  Supporting youth activities
-  Connecting cultures
-  Providing opportunities



Catalog related to the best methods of youth work, which was established in 2020. The catalog is prepared within the framework "Youth Worker" programs, which is implemented by the Ministry youth and sports of Ukraine, State Institute of Family and youth policy with the assistance UN development programs in Ukraine.



Unfortunately, right now because of the full-scaled war, there is no booklet that can represent new methods, that were created by the youth workers in rural areas of Ukraine in 2021.

Legal Documents

All of the fundamental principles are written in the Constitution of Ukraine and youth workers principles are not an exception.

THE LAW OF UKRAINE

About the main principles of youth policy

This Law defines the **purpose, tasks**, basic **principles, directions** and **mechanisms** of youth policy implementation in Ukraine, guarantees of youth participation in its formation and implementation, peculiarities of the organizational and legal foundations of the formation and activity of youth and children's public associations.



Anna, Mirbanu, Valeriia,
Mariia

Conclusion

As a result of the Contact making Seminar "**Let's Connect**", the participants improved their networking competencies, improved digital skills, get acquainted rural youth realities, familiarized with the legal documents of different countries, which regulates youth work. Increased their knowledge of youth workers in methods of non-formal learning and establish a long-term partnership between youth organisations.

The booklet is a useful tool for youth workers in rural areas who want to discover more about youth work, should become a member of the network, where they will share and receive other people's practices, experiences, and collaborate on new projects with other organizations and youth workers.



THANK YOU!