



### **Commonwealth (Global) Youth Development Index (YDI)**

“Enhancing the status of young people, empowering them to build on their competencies and capabilities for life. It will enable them to contribute and benefit from a politically stable, economically viable and legally supportive environment, ensuring their full participation as active citizens in their countries.”

Global Youth Development Index 2016

### **Professional Open Youth Work Europe**

“Professional Open Youth Work is a profession that is practised by trained and educated workers who commit to codes of ethic and quality standards and are paid for their work. It is a practice of non-formal and informal learning. It is offered on a universal basis and open for all young people who voluntarily choose to participate. It is based on pedagogical concepts that aim to raise the emancipation and empowerment of young people as well as their critical awareness. Professional Open Youth Work fosters the ability to critically evaluate one’s own individual situation in relation to others and society, applying a variety of methods aimed at the young peoples’ personal and social development and social inclusion, hence empowering them for social change. It especially seeks to support and empower young people that are in a marginalized or vulnerable situation. Its approach is holistic and inclusive of young people, focusing on their talents, potentials and interests, seeing them as an asset and not as a deficit. It provides for a professional stable relationship between young people and youth workers that is based on dialogue and which is not judgemental. It seeks to create a sense of belonging and strengthens resilience in young people. Offers are co-created with the young people, with support from the youth worker. It actively advocates and promotes the interests of young people at all relevant levels.”

Declaration of Principles, 2016

### **Australia**

“Youth work is a practice that places young people and their interests first. Youth work is a relational practice, where the youth worker operates alongside the young person in their context. Youth work is an empowering practice that advocates for and facilitates a young person’s independence, participation in society, connectedness and realisation of their rights.”

Australian Youth Affairs Coalition 2013

### **South Africa**

“Youth work is a field of practice that focuses on the holistic development of a young person.”

South Africa National Youth Development policy 2009

### **England**

“Youth work helps young people learn about themselves, others and society, through informal educational activities which combine enjoyment, challenge and learning.”

National Youth Agency 2002

<b>New Zealand</b>
<p>“Youth work is the development of a relationship between a youth worker and a young person through: connecting with young people; where: young people are empowered, including the choice to engage for as long as agreed; and that: supports their holistic, positive development as rangatahi that contribute to themselves, their whanau, community and world.”</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Code of Ethics for Youth Work in Aotearoa New Zealand 2011</p>
<b>Finland</b>
<p>“Youth work means the promotion of active citizenship in young people’s leisure time, their empowerment, support to young people’s growth and independence, and interaction between generations”</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Youth Act 2006, Ministry of Education, Finland</p>
<b>Estonia</b>
<p>“Youth work is the creation of conditions to promote the diverse development of young people which enable them to be active outside their families, formal education acquired within the adult education system, and work on the basis of their free will.”</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Republic of Estonia, Youth Work Act 2010</p>
<b>Ireland</b>
<p>“Youth work - a planned programme of education designed for the purpose of aiding and enhancing the personal and social development of young persons through their voluntary participation, and which is complementary to their formal, academic or vocational education and training; and provided primarily by voluntary youth work organisations.”</p> <p style="text-align: right;">National Youth Council of Ireland, Youth Work Act 2001</p>
<b>Flanders (Belgium)</b>
<p>“Youth work: socio-cultural work on the basis of non-commercial goals for or by young people between the ages of three and thirty years, inclusive in the area of leisure time, under educational guidance, with the purpose of promoting general and integrated development of young people who participate in the same on a voluntary basis.”</p> <p style="text-align: right;">The Flemish Youth and Children’s Rights Policy Plan 2015-2019</p>
<b>Latvia</b>
<p>“Youth work is a set of planned youth-oriented practical measures, which ensure the improvement of their life quality.”</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Latvia, Youth Act 2008</p>
<b>Malta</b>
<p>“A non-formal learning activity aimed at the personal, social and political development of young people.”</p>

**Norway**

“Giving young people an interesting and meaningful leisure time and opportunities of personal development through participation and social interaction.”

**Spain**

“Activities of a social, cultural, educational or political nature with and for young people.”

Youth Institute INJUVE

**Germany**

“Offers for young people that support their development by picking up their interests allowing co-determination, fostering self-definition and encouraging social responsibility and participation.”

German Federal Youth Council (DBJR) – Peak Body

**Romania**

“Any activity organised to improve the necessary conditions for the social and professional development of youth according to their necessities and wishes.”

**Serbia**

“Youth work shall mean such youth activities organised by and for young people, based on non-formal education, carried out in young people’s free time and undertaken with the aim of improving the conditions for personal and social development of young people, in accordance with their needs and abilities, in which young people voluntarily participate.”

Law on Youth 2011

**Italy**

“Initiatives that favour the access of young people to the labour market.”

Dept. of Youth and Civic Service

**Greece**

“Education and welfare services to support young people’s safe and healthy transition to adult life, as well as leisure time activities.”

European Commission/Council of Europe 2013

**The Netherlands**

“Supportive and reactive services, as well as broad leisure-orientated offers.”

<b>Fiji</b>
<p>“Youth Work refers to a planned program of non-formal education activities aimed at empowering youths aged 15-35 to enhance personal, social, economic, civic and sustainable development. Implicit in this definition is that youth work engages young people and their communities to bring about social change.”</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Fiji National Policy 2017</p>
<b>Jamaica</b>
<p>“Youth development work is a practice that utilizes youth engagement-centric methods at engaging youth and youth concerns in order to enable positive youth outcomes.”</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Jamaica code of Ethics 2027</p>
<b>Council of Europe</b>
<p>“Young people are a key resource for building a social and just Europe, and providing them with structured support is an important investment Europe has to make for its present and future.”</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Council of Europe, 2017</p>

**Sources:** youth work legislation and policy documents of relevant countries; websites of youth ministries and youth agencies; Council of Europe; youthpolicy.org, Commonwealth Youth Program Youth Development Index

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