



The Science of Sexuality Education and Youth Work

BELGIUM

from Paper to Practice Report



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. This publication [communication] reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein. [2020-1-CY02-KA205-001795]

Contents

The Document.....	3
Consortium	4
Project Information	5
Document Information	5
Document Version Control	5
Executive Summary	6
For The Youth Policy Perspective:	6
For The Youth / Youth Workers' Perspective.....	6
Methodology.....	6
Participant Statistics	6
Focus Group Discussion Results And Recommendations For Practitioners On The Topic Of Sexual And Reproductive Education	7
Core Values Of Sexual And Reproductive Education In Youth Clubs.....	8
Conclusion.....	9

The Document

This document was produced within the framework of the Safe Youth project: for The Science of Sexuality Education and Youth Work. SAFE YOUTH is a project funded by the ERASMUS Project Number: 2020-1-CY02-KA205-001795

The content of this publication represents the views of the author only and is its sole responsibility. The European Commission does not accept any responsibility for use that may be made of the information it contains.

Consortium

P1 CENTRE FOR ADVANCEMENT OF RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT IN EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY LTD- CARDET - CYPRUS



P2 KYPRIAKOS SYNDESMOS OIKOGENEIAKOU PROGRAMMATISMOU -CFPA- CYPRUS



P3 KENTRO MERIMNAS OIKOGENEIAS KAI PAIDIOU- KMOP- GREECE



P4 EUROPESE CONFEDERATIE VAN ORGANISATIES VOOR JEUGDCENTRA ECYC VERENIGING- BELGIUM



P5 The Rural Hub CLG- IRELAND



P6 Motion Digital s.r.o.- CZECH REPUBLIC



Project Information

Project title	The Science of Sexuality Education and Youth Work
Project acronym:	SAFE YOUTH
Project number:	2020-1-CY02-KA205-001795
Beneficiary organization (Project Coordinator)	Centre for the Advancement of Research and the Development in Educational Technology (CARDET) - Cyprus
Project Partners	<p>Kypriakos Syndesmos Oikogeneiakou Programmatismou- Cyprus</p> <p>Kentro Merimnas Oikogeneias Kai Paidiou- Greece</p> <p>Europese Confederatie Van Organisaties Voor Jeugdcentra Ecyc Vereniging- Belgium</p> <p>The Rural Hub Clg- Ireland</p> <p>Motion Digital S.R.O.- Czech Republic</p>

Document Information

Document title:	IO4 From Paper to Practice Report
Document author:	ECYC
Version:	1.1
Date:	31/08/2022

Document Version Control

Version	Date	Description
1	15/08/2022	Final (by ECYC)

Executive Summary

The European Confederation of Youth Clubs organized a focus group discussion with young workers on the topic of sexual education, in relation to youth policy and youth work practice. The Focus Group was organized in person in Brussels on the 20.07.2022.

The discussion was designed to gather information from policy makers, youth workers and young people regarding the following themes:

For the youth policy perspective:

What is the current situation regarding sexuality education in your country?

What would they like to change in the current situation and if this could be combined with the project?

Difficulties they face and if there is anything to suggest, maybe good practices?

For the youth / youth workers' perspective

How do they face the current situation regarding sexuality education and if they think there are gaps, if so what are they?

What do they believe are the most important difficulties regarding sexuality education?

What would they change about sexuality education and if they know any good practices?

Methodology

Discussion language of the focus group with youth workers was in English and French. So, everyone could say what they considered it necessary and important. The duration of the focus group was approximately 1 h 40 min. Participants did not know each other. The focus group discussion contained clarification questions, so the facilitator didn't meet any problems in the deviations from the topic.

Participant Statistics

In the focus group were involved 10 participants, as follows:

1. Participant profile: youth workers, young people and youth clubs and youth policy makers.
2. Gender: 4 man and 6 women.

3. Living place: four participants from outside of Brussels and six participants from city;
4. Age: participants ranged in age from 22-59;

Focus Group Discussion Results And Recommendations For Practitioners On The Topic Of Sexual And Reproductive Education

It was contended that in terms of best practices the program of EVRAS <https://www.evras.be> is the main reference program for the French speaking part of Belgium. EVRAS - education in relational, affective, and sexual life - consists of supporting children, adolescents and young adults and offering them an awakening to the multiple dimensions of their development

Participants in the focus group have discussed a series of recommendations for the attention of youth workers as well as a series of core values that should be considered in practice.

Thus participants recommended for the **youth workers**:

- Recommended that the youth work sector is considered by all as a core partner in the development of SRE curriculum development, and especially in the case for SRE programs delivered in youth clubs.
- Recommended that the youth work sector strive for developing evidence based SRE programs, and that the most effective way of quality assessment and development of these programs include the consideration of the feedback of young people and youth organisations.
- to invest in the development of youth workers' capacities to develop and implement SRE program in youth clubs
- recommended that youth clubs and youth work organisations try to engage in cross-sectoral partnerships, particularly with formal education and the health sector, to leverage funding and to create a community for youth work SRE support.
- acknowledged the role of community and parent organisations and recommends that youth clubs include SRE in their facilitation work in communicates and in their conversations between youth and their parents.

- recommended that youth workers and youth clubs have also a responsibility to the youth work sector at large, to communicate and share their experiences and advocate for SRE programs.

Core Values Of Sexual And Reproductive Education In Youth Clubs

- SRE improves sexual and reproductive health related outcomes in young people's lives, such as HIV infections and pregnancy rates, disrupts harmful gender norms, promotes gender equality, prevents gender-based violence
- Young people have the right to identify options for their own development and choose the most appropriate one for them in any given situation, and in this sense, SRE develops critical thinking, communication and decision making, that empower youth to take responsibility and control for their actions.
- Each young person should be given the support to achieve their full potential in a manner that has regard for the dignity and autonomy of the individual, and SRE should not make an exception.
- SRE goes beyond the focus on biology, reproduction and prevention of risk and disease.

Participants have discussed and made a series of recommendations for **policy makers** also, and have recommended that

- recommend that each state foresee comprehensive SRE as a component in their youth dedicated strategies, or links the youth strategies on this matter, with health or education strategies, recognising the importance of SRE, also through youth clubs.
- recommend that non-governmental youth work sector is actively involved in the formulation of any local, national or international policies or strategies related to SRE at the appropriate level (local government involve local project, national government involve national organisation, EU involve ECYC etc).
- recommend that states foresee data reporting mechanism for the implementation of SRE programs, including progress made on SRE provision and SRE programs delivered through youth clubs or other forms of neighbourhood work.

Conclusion

This focus group represented a good opportunity to join a discussion about what youth workers felt that young people, youth workers and policy makers should know and should act upon in relation to sexuality education. Also, participants came to the idea that it is absolutely necessary to have a close collaboration between the structures that provide services for young people in the field and sexual and reproductive education.