

## Generations of participation

### *Project summary*

Generations of Participation is a Transnational Youth Seminar aiming at mainstreaming good practices in 'youth participation' existing within the Worldwide Don Bosco Movement. Over 170 years people of all ages have voluntarily participated in educating young people to become active citizens. The educational system of Don Bosco on which this learning process is based, was created against the political background of the formation of the state of Italy. Don Bosco Youth-Net ivzw translates this educational system to the present political context of the formation of the European Union.

Once our young people reach adulthood they are active in all sectors of society (educational, social, political, economical, juridical, cultural). In the past many of them decided to combine their adult life with an ongoing voluntary engagement within the Don Bosco Movement. Amongst the current generation this tradition has faded. This project will set-up an intergenerational dialogue between young volunteers, older volunteers and policy makers.

Young volunteers will be interviewing the older volunteers about their life-long engagement. At the seminar the interviews will be used to identify good practices. The participants of the seminar will have discussions with policy makers from the field of EU youth work and from the Don Bosco Movement. Through this process we want to create a cross-fertilisation where our young volunteers are stimulated for a life-long engagement, where the older volunteers are stimulated to think about bringing their voluntary engagement on EU level, and where policy makers are stimulated in creating the right framework for such a life-long engagement in working for the young.

Generations of Participation takes place at the Salesianum in Munich, 8-11 March 2012. It will bring together 26 young people from 13 EU member states (AT, BE, CZ, DE, ES, IRE, IT, MT, NL, PL, SK, SI, UK). DBYN's pool of trainers will facilitate the meeting.

### **Project's content and methodology**

Youth policies which are developed within a European context have an influence on the lives of our participants. However being focussed on the practical work, this might not always be this clear for them. This project sets-out to develop their awareness on how policies affect their lives, and wants to give them the opportunity to turn around the process and mainstream good practices from their work towards EU youth policy.

For developing the awareness we will set-up a reflection process on 2 levels. There is the intergenerational reflection where the 'youth participation' of older generations is compared with the present, which will demonstrate the shifts in youth policies over the past generations. There is the intercultural reflection, where the participants will be able to share their opinions with peers, which

will demonstrate differences in the policy framework in different EU member states. The content of the reflection are the good practices which exists in on 'youth participation'.

During the seminar the participants will design a tool for mainstreaming the outcomes of the project. For this reason we are inviting policy makers (European, Don Bosco Movement). Through enabling a direct contact with policy makers, the participants will come to a better understanding of how to develop this tool in terms of target group and use of language.

Throughout the project we are using a variety of methods: In the preparation stage the participants will carry out interviews with previous generation of volunteers. The seminar consists of a set of sessions: presentations, exchange market, working in smaller groups, group discussions with policy makers, active reviewing and informal moments. In the evaluation stage of the project we will develop a tool for dissemination and use this to mainstream the outcomes. All methods start from the engagement of the participants, which will ensure will be actively involved in each stage of the project.

### Policy makers

Our German host organisation has strong contacts with German policy makers active on local, regional and European level. We will invite a member of the EU parliament, a member of the Bavarian government and a member of Munich's city council. This will enable us to illustrate how EU policy influences the member states and vice versa.

We will invite Fr. José Pastor Ramirez, who in the Don Bosco Movement is responsible for the world association of Past-Pupils. This association brings together 97.357 registered members, of which a large number can be categorised as actively aging volunteers. Fr. Ramirez represents the Salesians of Don Bosco in this association, which will illustrate how Salesian policy influences a Don Bosco organisation and vice versa.

We will invite a board member of the European Youth Forum to represent the European Youth work sector.

### Responsibilities partners

1. Select 2 participants (18-25 years old), preferably a gender-balanced mix. We are looking young people who are active as volunteer in your organisation and show the optional of being active as multipliers in your organisation. They will need to be available for the whole run of the project, and carry out the interviews.
2. Set-up an interview between each participant and a member of the Salesian family in your country (past-pupil, co-operator, Salesian). The participants need to record the interviews (sound recording, film recording). We will ask from the participants to write-out the interview, so we can collect them for a publication afterwards.
3. Send the 2 participants to the seminar
4. When returning have a meeting with the participants to debrief the participants and to see how you will organise the dissemination process. As a result of the seminar we will have a "product" which needs to be delivered in some way to local policy makers (post, personal meeting, ...). The format will be developed on the seminar, however you need to help with the actual dissemination process afterwards.

## Part I of the project: Interviews (briefing)

**Timing: 08/01/2012 – 07/03/2012**

Prior to the meeting, each participant will be asked to interview a 'senior' member of the Salesian Family in his/her country. This can be an SDB, a FMA-sister, a Salesian co-operator, or a past pupil, preferably aged 65 or older.

The interview needs to be written out afterwards. Therefore it is advisable to make a sound recording of the interview. We will collect the interviews in a publication. Therefore, please also make some pictures of the interview. The full interview should be written out in the native language of the participant. As preparation the trainers might ask to make an English summary of the outcomes of the interview.

The interview needs to touch 3 different areas. We want to record information on their motivation of giving their lives voluntarily to the mission of Don Bosco. We want to record good practices they see in the Salesian world. We want to record a message they want to give to the policy makers of today which create the framework in which volunteers need to work.

### Motivation:

- Who are you?
- How and when did you become involved?
- When did you decide to become a member of the Salesian Family (SDB/FMA/co-operator)?
- What does 'volunteer' mean for you?
- In what way has your voluntary engagement influenced your life?

### Good practices:

- Are there trends in voluntary engagement noticeable from the time you first got involved and nowadays?
- Are there things you have learned from the youth of today?
- Are there things what the youth of today could learn from you?

### Policy makers:

- In what way has national policy changed for the benefit of your work as a volunteer, throughout your engagement within the Salesian family?
- In what way has national policy impacted your work as a volunteer in a negative way, throughout your engagement within the Salesian family?
- In what way has Salesian policy changed for the benefit of your work as a volunteer, throughout your engagement within the Salesian family?
- In what way has Salesian policy impacted your work as a volunteer in a negative way, throughout your engagement within the Salesian family?
- Is there a message you want to give to European and/or Salesian policy makers today?

## Part 2 of the project: Transnational Youth Seminar (timetable)

**Timing: 08/03/2012 – 11/03/2012**

	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
<i>Breakfast</i>				
	Goodmorning			
<i>Morning session (coffee break included)</i>	Arrival of the participants	Good practices within the Don Bosco Movement	From good practices to mainstreaming	Development of dissemination product
				Evaluation of the seminar
<i>Lunch</i>				
<i>Afternoon sessions (coffee break included)</i>	Arrival of the participants	Debate with Policy makers	Exchange market to start-up new projects	Departure of the participants
<i>Dinner</i>				
<i>Evening session</i>	Introduction to the seminar  Sharing of experiences: individual learning process	Intercultural evening	Munich by night	Departure of the participants
	Goodnight			
<i>Bar moment</i>	<i>Informal meeting moments are as important as the formal meeting time. Every night is closed with the opportunity to sit down together, have a drink and a chat ... having a good time</i>			

- **The trainers will further develop the sessions for the seminar. They will inform the participants well in advance how to prepare for the seminar.**

## Part III of the project: Dissemination

**Timing: 12/03/2012 – 30/06/2012**

At the seminar the participants will develop a tool for disseminating the outcomes of the project. This tool will be produced by the international secretariat and send to all partners in the project. The partners are than responsible for disseminating the product in their own country.

## Practicalities

- Date: 08 – 11/03/2012
- Venue: Salesianum, Munich
- Participation fee: € 20
- Travel reimbursement: 70% of travel costs up to a maximum.

Country	Organisation	Number pax	Maximum refund
AT	Jugend Eine Welt (JIW)	2	140
BE	Jeugdendienst Don Bosco v.z.w.	2	210
CZ	SADBA – Salesianska Asociace Dona Boska	2	105
DE	Aktionszentrum	2	70
IRE	Salesians of Don Bosco IRE	2	350
IT	Federazione SCS/CNOS	2	210
MT	Salesian Pastoral Youth Service (SPYS)	2	350
PL	Salezjanskie Centrum WDM	2	210
SK	DOMKA - Association of Salesian Youth	2	140
SI	Mladinski Ceh	2	350
ES	Confederación de centros juveniles Don Bosco de España	2	350
NL	Don Bosco Youthnet Nederland	2	175
UK	Salesian Youth work office UK	2	210

- Overview contacts:

Country	Name	Task	Email
AT	Magdalena Jetschgo	Contact person	<a href="mailto:volontariat@jugendeinewelt.at">volontariat@jugendeinewelt.at</a>
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CZ	Marie Safarikova	Contact person	<a href="mailto:Marie.safarikova@sadba.org">Marie.safarikova@sadba.org</a>
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ES	Angel Gudina	Contact person	<a href="mailto:internacional@confedonbosco.org">internacional@confedonbosco.org</a>
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BE	Rein Meus	Support (DBYN)	<a href="mailto:Rein.meus@donboscoyouth.net">Rein.meus@donboscoyouth.net</a>
???	To be decided	Trainer	
???	To be decided	Trainer	

- Register your participants before the 9<sup>th</sup> of January using following online registration form:  
[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheet/viewform?hl=en\\_GB&formkey=dEh5Rm9WNDdRR2I0YXp qZWJlYUI0Tnc6MA#gid=0](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheet/viewform?hl=en_GB&formkey=dEh5Rm9WNDdRR2I0YXp qZWJlYUI0Tnc6MA#gid=0)