



Project draft

CI SIAMO

3rd International Meeting
on Youth Policies

Urbino 9/12 may 2007

Reasons for organising the meeting

“The participation of young people is a political objective, but it is also a principle of good governance at local, national and European level”. The motivation for improving youth participation is also supported by the wider objective of reaching active citizenship. The question of citizenship is not an innate one: we are not born as citizens, but we become citizens through education. In other words, the condition of citizenship may be reached and preserved above all through commitment and responsible participation.

The path that led the Province of Pesaro and Urbino to face the issues linked to youth participation and to the exercise of the right/duty of active citizenship, during the next 3rd International Meeting on Youth Policies, is formed upon the experience matured on the one hand during years of practice in the field of youth Policies, and on the other hand on the interesting ideas that rose from the various working groups on which the last year Meeting was structured. What needs to be underlined is the fact that although the topics dealt in the workshops were different from group to group, at the end youth participation was the most recurrent issue that came out in every working group.

With the organisation of the 3rd Meeting thus we want to face the problem from a different perspective and with the aim of contributing to the already rich and ongoing national and European debate.





Path of the meeting

we train ourselves → we get informed → we get engaged → we “expose ourselves”
→ we affect

This virtuous and virtual path is the outline/sketch which we would like to work on. Our starting point is **education** to which we give a wide meaning that includes, obviously school and university education, but it also embraces the concept of education of young people’s consciousness, the concept of ethics and the values which are the foundations for democracy. The second step is **information**, here understood in an active and volunteer sense: “we get informed about something...” and not only “we are informed by someone...”. Information is the necessary condition but it is not enough for reaching active involvement and/or engagement. The research for information is also part of the personal education, but this research is somehow subordinated to a certain level of knowledge and culture. **Engagement** is the crucial point of the path, but here we would also like to distinguish an attitude of passive participation (participate = to be part of...) from an attitude of active participation (participate = to take part to...) which leads to **expose oneself**, so to take a position. Taking a position implies to put forward its own real values, on which is based the conscience of an individual and tends to the objective of affecting. Here we would like also to duck a frequent error: affecting is not the equivalent of “deciding”, namely of having the power of decision. Affecting also means to create the cultural basis for a confrontation between different and even antagonist positions, leading, if necessary, even to conflict, which is one of the foundation of democratic life and for sure not a deviance of the same.

Framework of the meeting

In two **plenary meetings**, we will listen Italian and European young people and youth associations that will share with us their experiences in various fields, presenting the reasons that pushed them to “expose themselves”, even if this has in some cases entailed risks. At the end of each plenary session, which will last half a day, an expert will analyze and draw the partial conclusions of the discussion. This will also create new stimulus for the discussion during the foreseen workshops.

In fact, roughly two half days will be dedicated to **workshops** where the participants, splitted in groups of about 30 people, will compare their ideas: this is the moment where the youngsters will meet the adults – public administrations, schools, University, associations, operators... . The workshops will have as a starting point the experiences presented during the plenary meetings and will deal with the issue of participation in the fields where young people are most active such as: the social field and political commitment, sport, legality, respect of the environment, but there will also be the opportunity for deepening the issues of ethic education, the transmission of values and information as a fundamental tool for exercising active citizenship.

The workshops will be lead by experts who will also have the task of summarizing the work of the groups in written reports. In the **final plenary meeting** the overall results of this path will be analyzed and will be compared with the strategic priorities identified by the European Commission.



Some additional features

The meeting will also provide with additional collateral activities fully inserted into the program which are ensured by the participation of organizations present in the provincial territory, and not only... In brief, these activities are a set of initiatives (project market, informative corners, training sessions), all sharing a common feature: to offer young people opportunities of a conscious orientation

Some additional features

Project market

A space will be set up to give the opportunity for youth groups, youth associations, cooperatives, schools, public administrations, and other organizations active in the youth field, to show their material regarding activities and projects aiming at favoring the exercise of active participation and at fostering the democratic participation of young people. This with the aim of facilitating the circulation of information about the most significant initiatives present in the national territory.

Some additional features

How it will be done

Meeting places will be organized where you can ask specialized operators questions about topics that can interest youth and organizations, such as:

- How can an independent activity be opened?
- How can a voluntary or social service experience be chosen?
- How can one participate in the Erasmus program?
- How do you build an association?
- How do you build a cooperative?
- How can you work abroad?
- What do you need for a job interview?
- How can you study a year abroad?
- How do you choose a course at University?

Some additional features

Learn Art

Prestigious schools in Urbino and some Associations in the provincial area will open their doors to the meeting participants for certain "mini laboratories". In two afternoons, one can explore the fundamentals of certain professions, thanks to the collaboration between professors and youth.

- **Cooking** provided by the Alberghiero school of S.Marta in Pesaro
- **Music** provided by the Association of the Barco of Urbana
- **Video** provided by the Laboratory of Multimedia Service Formation and Provincial work
- **Incision Xilography, Clay-Sculpting, and Litography** provided by the ISA school of art in Urbino
- **Artistic Binding** provided by the ISA school of art in Urbino
- **Cinema of Animation** provided by the ISA school of art in Urbino
- **Cinematography** provided by the school of Beautiful Arts in Urbino



Some additional features
European exchange
of artistic languages

This is an international exchange between six finalized European countries to explore the forms of youth participation through artistic languages (a project that is waiting to be approved). The products, which are the result of joint collaboration between the artists involved, will be opportunities to see the theme of participation from a different point of view.

Who to do it with

We are building this itinerary together with young people, with the Council of Youth Deputies of the Province of Pesaro and Urbino, as well as with all those who work with young people: schools, universities, local institutes, etc.

Therefore we are involving:

- **A diverse group at the national level comprised of Associate Representatives, institutions and other interested participants to develop the themes of the meeting** and, eventually, create a permanent work network. The participants should bring a constructive contribution to the meeting which relates to the experience and track of participation already developed in their area or about those working
- **Local, Italian and European youth associations**, to organize some of the parts of the meeting
- **High schools in the area** that will comprise a tight work group, that will make sure to involve the schools themselves on the track of participation (such as gathering projects that already exist, proposing short meetings and focusing them with experts to decide a method of working inside the schools, etc
- **The art schools of Urbino** (Scuola del Libro and Accademia delle Belle Arti), The Alberghiero Institute of S.Marta in Pesaro and the Association of Barco in Urbania will be involved in organizing the “How it is made” mini-labs; at the center of their structure and in a space prepared under the tent of the Civil Protection of the Province
- **Council of Youth Deputies of the Province of Pesaro and Urbino**: this group will take care of the territorial animation through a meeting tour that will touch upon different Municipalities which will end in coordinating work between the local administrations and youth. In addition, a youth work group will be created for the meeting; it will involve the Student Associations and will make a report of the meeting and will collaborate with the administration of the organizing secretary
- **The University of Studies in Urbino**: it will select certain teachers to lead the workshops. It will also involve some student groups in preparing themes for the meeting as well as organizing some of the mini-labs of “How it is made” and offering logistical support
- **Network of Local Info-Youth**: it will develop regional animation involving the associations of youth and singles youth
- **Network of national Euro-desk**: a document was agreed upon which, together with the Italian Union of the Provinces, started the road to this Meeting of Youth Politics. This is the cooperator of the same meeting and involves operators of their own youth world network
- **Europe Direct Pesaro**, will support the organization, give European information, collaborate with Euro-desk to bring the document to the attention of the European Commission, and will organize the “Europe Day” together with the Europe Direct of Urbino
- **Other Services of the Provincial Administration**: Formation and Work and Councillorship of Culture will work together within the management of certain meeting activities
- **Municipality of Urbino**: it will offer logistical support and participate with the uniting of Info-Youth and Center



- **The Classic Lycée “Raffaello” School of Urbino:** it will collaborate in the organizing of secretarial services and of hostess
- **Municipality of Pesaro** it will participate by making a contribution as well as involving their Info-Youth which includes the youth associations of their region
- **Municipalities of the Province of Pesaro and Urbino** they will support the project, preparing and involving the youth from their areas

**Which result we think we will
“bring home”?**

An analysis that compares the outputs of the Meeting with the strategic guidelines that the European Commission, in accordance with the Member States, has identified on the issues of information and participation:

- 1) youngsters' greater participation in the life of their local communities;
- 2) youngsters' greater participation in the mechanisms of representative;
- 3) to learn to participate

This will bring us to write a shared final document to be submitted to:

- The Ministry of Youth Policies as a contribution to the government action plan
- The European Commission, as an evidence and contribution of the particular Italian experience

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