

## **Call for Proposals: Research on volunteer-based youth work**

Deadline: July 16

### **Background**

The European Youth Forum being the platform of more than 100 youth organisations, whose work is strongly linked to volunteer-based youth work, aims to conduct the study to help understand better the main features of volunteer-based youth work. The vision of the European Youth Forum is to be the voice of young people in Europe, where young people are equal citizens and are encouraged and supported to achieve their fullest potential as global citizens. Youth work highly contributes to this vision.

The role of youth work in young people's development and addressing the challenges that they face has been strengthened in the last decade. Several processes have been launched or were concluded that aimed to mainstream youth work, increase its recognition and ensure its quality.

When we are looking at youth work practice we can see a diverse, heterogeneous community. Members of this community have different training, goals and circumstances in which they operate. One of the differences is related to the status of paid and volunteer youth workers.

Youth organizations predominantly rely on volunteer-based youth work. On one hand, in some cases, there are no great differences in the tools and methodology of paid and volunteer youth workers but this deserves further exploration. On the other hand, we can see a contrast in other aspects, like communication with young people or the intensity of workload. The aim of this study would be to explore the characteristics of volunteer-based youth work, and identify its main challenges and strengths.

### **Objectives**

The objectives of the research study include:

- Conducting research on the unique characteristics of volunteer-based youth work

- Gather evidence on the positive impact of volunteer-based youth work on young people and society at large, e.g. on mental health, sustainability of volunteering, diversity, cross-border mobility, etc
- Highlight best practices that could inspire the youth work community
- Identify main challenges and opportunities, e.g. limited recognition, legal obstacles, motivations, accessibility, etc
- Suggest policy recommendations for different audiences (governments, agencies, youth organisations, etc)

### **Candidates profile**

We are seeking proposals from candidates that respond as much as possible to the following profile:

- Experience in quantitative and qualitative data gathering and analysis
- Excellent English writing and editing skills
- Ability to write about complex issues in an engaging and storytelling way
- Previous experience in conducting similar research, with experience in the youth field particularly valued
- Good understanding of European youth policies and youth work practice in Europe

### **How to apply**

The European Youth Forum is calling for proposals for projects as outlined above. To respond to the call, candidates should prepare:

- A CV and cover letter outlining relevant experience and motivation for conducting this project
- A detailed proposal of how they will undertake the project, with a proposed methodology and an idea of the kind of stakeholders they would seek to engage with
- A comprehensive budget proposal, based on the amount indicated below

### **Additional information**

- The final output of the project is an approximately 20-page long report
- The research consultant will be offered a total fee of 5000 EUR for their work, excluding VAT. The consultant is exclusively responsible for the payment of all

income and other taxes and social contributions related to or incidental to the payment of the above amounts.

- The timeframe for the research, from consultant selection, conceptualisation to publication of the report, is from July to December 2021. with the following elements:
  - a work plan to be submitted by the end of July
  - the methodology to be agreed with the European Youth Forum by the end of July
  - a progress report to be submitted by the end of October
- During the project, consultants are expected to conduct small focus group discussions and desk research

### **Selection Procedure**

The applications, including all information outlined above, should reach the European Youth Forum via e-mail at [kristof.papp@youthforum.org](mailto:kristof.papp@youthforum.org). The deadline for submission of project proposals is 16 July, end of the day.

The selection will be based on the quality of the application. If needed interviews/calls could be organised with potential candidates for clarifications.

The European Youth Forum aims to ensure that no applicant receives less favourable treatment on the ground of race, colour, nationality, religion, ethnic or national origin, gender, marital status, caring responsibilities, sexual orientation, disability, chronic illness or any other aspect of their identity.