



promoting youth involvement and
social engagement



Horizon 2020

Promoting Youth Involvement and Social Engagement H2020 PROMISE European Policy Network working lunch, Brussels, 4 July

Report

On 4th July 2017, the youth research project H2020 **PROMISE** held the first meeting of its *European Policy Network* in Brussels.

Speakers

- **Dr Eckart Müller-Bachmann**, Researcher at Christliches Jugenddorfwerk Deutschland e.V.
- **Dr Zyab Ibañez**, Postdoctoral Researcher at the Institute of Government and Public Policies (IGOP) of the Universitat Autònoma Barcelona
- **Annett Wiedermann**, Director of the YES Forum

Project's presentation and early results

Thanks to this meeting, PROMISE researchers could present their work and early progress to key European stakeholders, including the European Commission, the European Parliament and the European Youth Forum.

PROMISE aims at investigating how **young people (YP)** 'in conflict' (with authority, social norms, institutions) can, with the right change of attitude and perception from public authorities, present **opportunities for positive social change**. The researchers presented the concepts on which PROMISE relies. They also introduced the qualitative ethnographic research that will be produced thanks to upcoming individual case studies in all partner countries. An emphasis was laid on difficulties in the fieldwork with regards to the involvement of system critical and disadvantaged groups of youth. When trying to engage YP in times of demanding participatory research delicate dilemmas may arise around issues such as: what are appropriate incentives and trust building activities, so not to bias the representativeness of the participants; to which degree young people will become protagonists of their involvement.

More details are available in the **National Contextual Reports** [here](https://bit.ly/2sprTo1) (bit.ly/2sprTo1). All results are also published online on the project's [website](#).

Participants' Feedback

The project's consortium also gathered crucial feedback from the participants on the research aims and methods, but also on how to transfer the project's results to the right stakeholders in order to best contribute to the improvement of youth policies at the European level.

The key issues raised by participants were:

- **Young people's involvement:** PROMISE aims not only at involving young people as a target group, but also at giving them ownership of the project outputs by engaging them in the research and dissemination activities. How are project partners going to achieve this concretely? How are young people going to choose what to do with the project results? What activities will project partners organise to engage them specifically?



Some participants suggested participatory actions where YP, especially the youngest (14-21), could see actual materialisation of activities they were particularly interested in, and could express their voice, e.g. changing school environment or the operation of a Youth Centre.

Others advised to develop close links with teachers, youth workers or other professionals working with YP to get access and gain trust with YP.

- **Project outputs:** The project should present a clearer picture about how some outcomes are going to improve YP lives? Two participants urged to avoid promoting traditional recipes (“more education”, employment policies ...)
- **Society’s stance towards social change proposed by conflicted youth:** PROMISE will focus on how young people in conflict can present opportunities for positive social change. But what about European societies: how open are they to accept such proposals for change?
- **Statistical data on youth:** PROMISE could update some of its statistical analyses thanks to more recent data provided at the European level (e.g. Eurostat’s *EuroBarometer*¹, the EC’s *Youth Reports*²).
- **Target group’s age range:** The age range chosen to define youth within the PROMISE project (14-29 years old) may be too wide to take into account the specifics of children’s rights. The age issue, together with other key sociodemographic variables, reveals how diverse YP reality is.
- **Transfer to policy:** The language used within PROMISE at this point is very academic, a more accessible and focused language could help transferring the results to policy and practice.

Given the nature of several main concerns and needs of YP, participants stressed the relevance of the local level in the political and institutional answers to their interests.

Next steps

The PROMISE Consortium will keep implementing the research project until mid-2019. Other European Policy Network meetings will be organised following the project’s progress.

More information

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¹ <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/en>

² https://ec.europa.eu/youth/policy/implementation/report_en



Participants

PROMISE Consortium

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Guests

Una Clarke	European Youth Forum
Yasmin Gebhard	European Parliament, EYE Unit
Margaret Tuite	European Commission, DG JUSTICE
Florencia Van-Houdt	European Commission, DG EAC
Tania Marocchi	European Policy Center
Sara Lembrechts	KeKi - Children's Rights Knowledge Centre
Marion Jabot	KeKi - Children's Rights Knowledge Centre
Chloé Berthélémy	JEF Europe
Amana Ferro	European Anti-Poverty Network