

Disadvantaged Urban Youth and Youth Work

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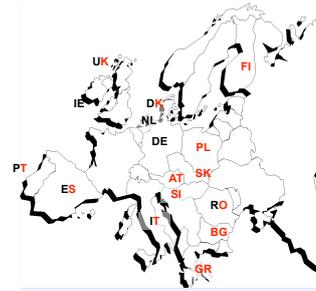
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Research background

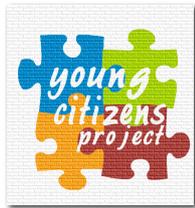
- Thematic Study on Policy Measures for Disadvantaged Youth in 13 countries (DG Employment)
- Youth Policy and Participation (YOYO) in 9 countries (DG Research)



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Practice background

URBACT network on Participation of young people in decision-making, 9 cities



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Outline

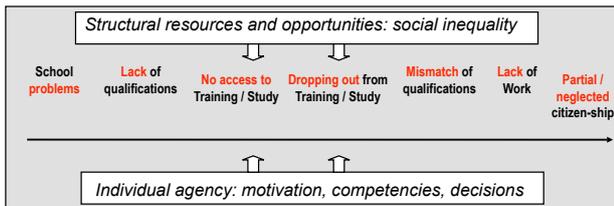
- Key perspectives on disadvantaged youth
- Constellations of disadvantage in Europe
- Space, disadvantage and the new activation agenda
- Youth work and policies in disadvantaged areas
- Conclusions



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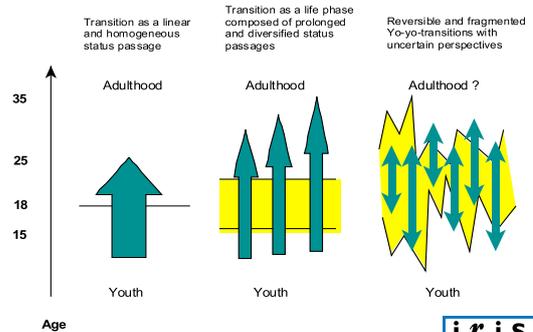
The transitions perspective

Disadvantage: fewer opportunities in a biographical perspective → risks of social exclusion



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YOYO transitions



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Constellations of disadvantage in Europe

- Early school leaving
- Unemployment
- Precariousness



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Early school leaving

Rates of early school leaving	Countries	Social Inequality	Education System	Training
Low (<10%)	DK, FI, SI	Low	Permeable	School-based, medium-high coverage
...				
High (>20%)	BG, ES, IT, PT, RO	Medium-High	Mostly permeable	School, low coverage



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Unemployment

	Gender	Economic growth	Education level	Long-term unempl.
Low youth unemployment				
DK	Males	Average	Low-skilled	< 10%
AT	Females	Stagnant	Low-skilled	10-20%
Medium				
...				
High				
BG, RO, SK	Males	Over-average	Mismatch Low-skilled	40-60%
ES, PL, GR, IT	Females	Over-average Stagnant	Mismatch	20-30% 40-50%

Precarious work



Work contracts per person per year, Spain 2004

Age bracket	Active Population (A)	Contracts signed (B)	Ratio Contracts/Active person
16-19	444.700	1.229.071	2,8
20 a 24	1.740.650	3.614.495	2,1
25 a 29	2.876.350	3.509.284	1,2
30 a 34	2.989.225	2.411.467	0,8
35 a 39	2.795.300	1.865.618	0,7
40 a 44	2.525.975	1.483.888	0,6
45 a 49	2.122.725	1.049.293	0,5
50 a 54	1.685.875	637.550	0,4
55 a 59	1.253.525	372.590	0,3
60 a 64	755.900	177.528	0,2

Question for debate

- How can youth work react to new life situations like YOYO transitions?

Space as a factor



Not only in France...

Spatialisation

- Social problems get „spatialised“
- New activation agenda: from resource problems to social cohesion
- Social spaces become labels
- Stigmatisation

Spatialisation 2.0

- Fragmentation of life worlds in the city
- No common ground between different spaces
- Excluded inclusion
- Do youth work spaces fit?

And Youth Work?



Do youth work spaces still fit?

A Typology of Youth Work

	Conservative	Under-institutionalised	Liberal	Universalistic
Countries	FR, DE, BE, AT	IT, ES, PT	UK, IRE	DK, SE, FI
Youth is..	integration	undefined?	danger	education
Aim of youth work	social integration	organisation-bound	cohesion/integration	personal development
Relationship to education and social policies	compensatory	sporadic	permeable	overlap

Factors of successful youth work

1. Accessibility:

-> coverage, decentralisation, permeability and connectivity of systems, flexibility of guidelines

2. Funding:

-> Coverage, quality

Expenditure on ALMP and Education as % of GDP in 2002 (Eurostat; OECD)

Education ALMP	Low (< 5%)	Medium (5-6%)	High (>6%)
Low (< 0,5%)	GR, ROM, SK	AT, PL, PT, UK	SI
Medium (0,5-1%)	BG, ES, IT		FI
High (>1%)			DK (1,5% / 8%)

Outreach work Stuttgart



- Streetwork associations in nearly all areas
- 2 professionals per area (minimum)
- Coordinated work

Factors of successful youth work

3. Integrated Approaches:

- bridging different social spaces
- coordinating different policies from a biographical way (rather than self-referential institutional networks) -> flexibility

Liverpool Youth Engagement Team

- Combination of employment and participation
- 2 years employment contracts
- Work in anti-discrimination, research and organising participation



Factors of successful youth work

4. Institutional reflexivity:

- biographical perspective
- integration of delivery and evaluation
- giving participants a voice

Sunderland Youth Inspection Team



- Young people evaluate youth services
- 2 training workshops on evaluation criteria and techniques
- OFSTED inspections
- Accreditation

Factors of successful youth work

5. Participation:

-> empowering young people through motivation and citizenship rights:

- choice,
- time and space for experimentation,
- recognition instead of deficit-orientation,
- trust
- involving young people in steering of hard policies

Bristol South URBAN 2

- 10 Mio. Euro for young people
- Distributed by a committee
- Of which: 50 per cent young people



Youth work and the new activation agenda

	Youth work	Activation agenda
Work Principle	Participation	Activation
Meaning of citizenship	Democratic rights and civic engagement	Being part of workforce
Aims	Citizenship, Empowerment	Employability, Adaptation
Means	Non-formal learning, shared decision-making	Pressure & control of training and job search
Motivation for activity	Intrinsic motivation	Extrinsic motivation

Questions for debate

- How can youth work react to new life situations like YOYO transitions?
- How can youth work approaches fit the new spatiality?
- How does youth work place itself in the „new“ welfare state?

Comments welcome!

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More research: UP2YOUTH



Youth as Actor
of Social
Change

www.up2youth.org