



SNAPSHOTS of YOUTHWORKERS' PATHS



the
QUALITY
Bonus ✓
ETS CONFERENCE MARCH 2018

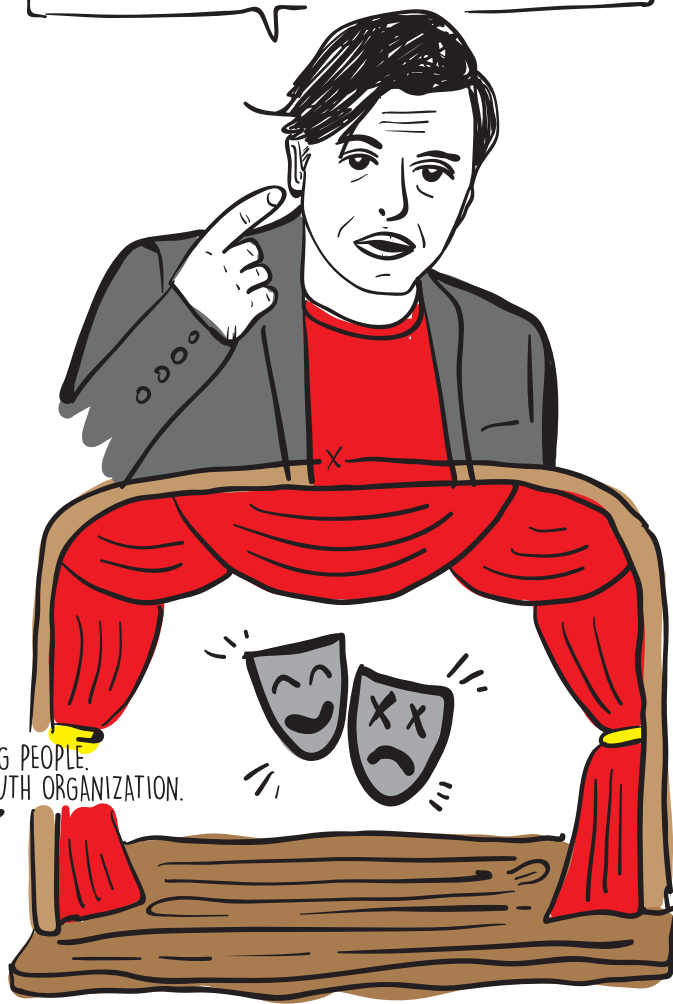
VISUALIZED
BY YOBI

FOR
SALTO T&C
RC

BE READY TO STEP BACK

...SALVI GRECO...

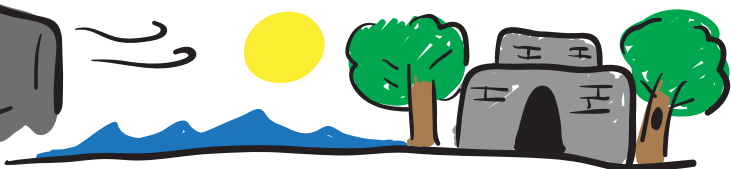
I CONSIDER MYSELF BOTH A TRAINER AND A YOUTH WORKER



I ALWAYS HAD INTEREST FOR ART AND THEATER
AND I WORKED A LOT WITH CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE.
WHEN I WAS 20 I FINALLY STARTED MY OWN YOUTH ORGANIZATION.



AS A YOUNG PERSON I WAS ALWAYS DEFINED BY OTHERS AS BEING ANTI-CHURCH BUT MY LIFE AND WORK IS BASED ON THE INSPIRATION OF 2 PRIESTS, WHO WERE REALLY ROLE MODELS, TRUE LIVING EXAMPLES.



STREET EDUCATION HAS TAUGHT ME A LOT ABOUT WORKING WITH YOUNG PEOPLE AND IN BUILDING WITH THEM TRUST AND RELATIONSHIPS



ENTERING THE EUROPEAN DIMENSION IS AN EFFECTIVE WAY TO FIGHT STEREOTYPES: THE EXPERIENCE OF CULTURAL DIVERSITY IS THE MOST INSPIRING THING FOR ME.



A GOOD YOUTH WORKER IS ALWAYS READY TO TAKE A STEP BACK FROM A SITUATION AND SAY:

OK. WE START FROM 0!



TO BE CONTINUED...

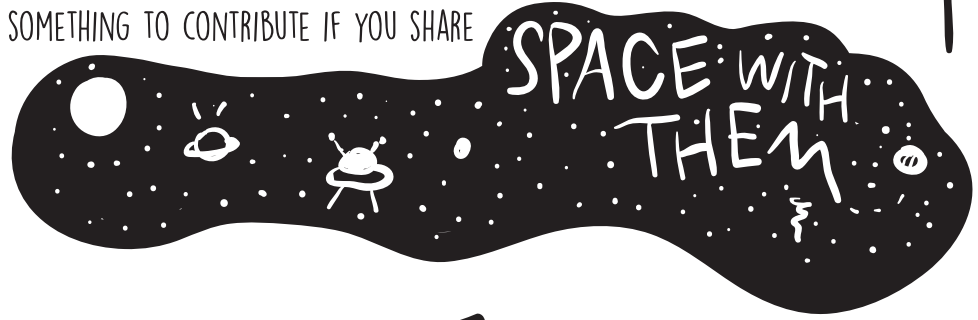
youth
work
IS MY **IDENTITY**
DERMOT O'BRIEN



YOUTH WORK IS MY IDENTITY: I LIVE MY WORK,
IT CONNECTS WITH MANY OTHER PARTS OF MY LIFE.



I CONSIDER MYSELF A GOOD YOUTH WORKER FOR MY ABILITY TO CONNECT WITH YOUNG PEOPLE:
THEY ALWAYS HAVE SOMETHING TO CONTRIBUTE IF YOU SHARE





THE MOST INSPIRING MOMENT FOR ME WAS THE EU YOUTH CONFERENCE IN IRELAND, IN 2013. I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN PASSIONATE ABOUT STORYTELLING AND MY GROUP WAS INVITED TO BE A CONTRIBUTOR. I COULD WATCH THEM FROM THE BACKSTAGE CREATING AND SHARING THEIR STORIES: IT WAS POWERFUL AND EMOTIONAL.

THE GREATEST CHALLENGE IN THIS JOB IS FOR ME PRESSURE AND EMPATHY: IF YOUNG PEOPLE SUFFER, I SUFFER WITH THEM.



BEING A YOUTH WORKER IS ABOUT COURAGE AND MOTIVATION: IT'S OK IF IT TAKES TIME, AS LONG AS YOU ARE AVAILABLE AND OPEN TO CONSTANTLY QUESTION AND



I SEE YOUTH WORK AND YOUTH WORK TRAINING AS PARALLEL PROCESSES: WHEN PEOPLE HIRE ME AS A TRAINER, THEY GET MY YOUTH WORK INPUT AND WHEN I DO YOUTH WORK, THEY ALSO GET TRAINING.



TO BE CONTINUED...

OH THAT'S twice!

OLGA PODDUBNAYA

THE MOST INSPIRING MOMENT WAS MY FIRST YOUTH EXCHANGE:
WE LEFT BELARUS AND YOUNG PEOPLE WERE REALLY INSECURE
ABOUT COMMUNICATING IN ENGLISH ALL THE TIME.
WE FOUND OUT THERE ARE OTHER WAYS FOR COMMUNICATION,
AND WE ALL GREW IN SELF CONFIDENCE.

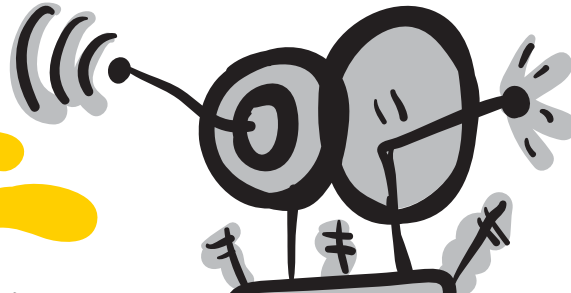
I AM A TRAINER
OF YOUTH WORKERS.



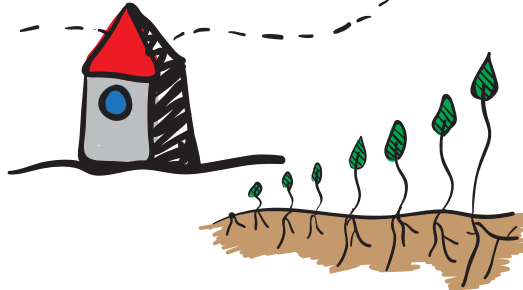


CONNECTING WITH PEOPLE WHO HAVE DIFFERENT VIEWS IS SURELY DIFFICULT. THE CHALLENGE FOR ME IS

TO TRANSFORM DIFFERENCE IN SOMETHING THAT IS POSITIVE



TO SOMEONE WHO WANTS TO BECOME A YOUTH WORKER I WOULD SAY THAT IS ALL ABOUT **EMOTION AND INTUITION.**



A GOOD YOUTH WORKER UNDERSTANDS YOUNG PEOPLE AND BELIEVES IN THEM.

TO BE CONTINUED...

DIGITAL YOUTHWORK could be FUN

·ALEXANDRA BENEIS·

I STARTED DOING YOUTH INFORMATION WORK WHEN I WAS 19. THEN I GOT VERY ACTIVE IN NATIONAL AND EUROPEAN NETWORKING. THE TURNING POINT FOR ME WAS BEING VICE PRESIDENT OF ERYICA

YOUTH WORK IS THE BASE OF MY IDENTITY. ALL THE WORK I DO IS BASED ON YOUTHWORk EVEN TRAINING AND FACILITATION



2 OR 3 YOUTH WORKERS INSPIRED ME. THEY HAD STRONG PASSION AND THEY JUST DID THINGS THAT MADE THEM BECOME REALITY.

THE MOST INSPIRING THING FOR ME IS ESTABLISHING RELATIONSHIPS WITH YOUNG PEOPLE

THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE IS OF COURSE FUNDING AND MONEY



WE ARE ALSO NOT ABLE TO VERY CLEARLY SAY WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE ARE AS YW. WE NEED MORE

RECOGNITION

WHO?
WHAT?

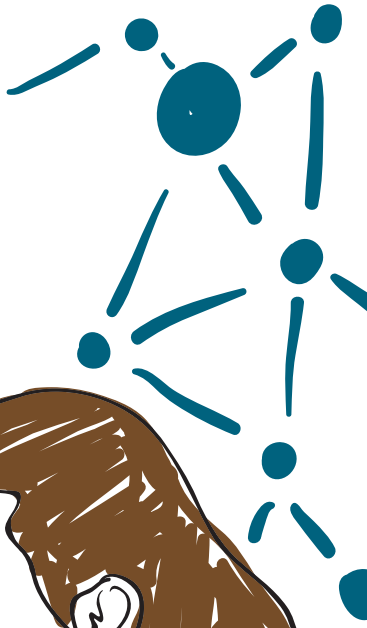
I AM A GOOD YOUTH WORKER BECAUSE I HAVE A GENUINE INTEREST FOR YOUNG PEOPLE. I'M WILLING TO FIGHT FOR THEIR RIGHTS AND SPEAK FOR THOSE WHO CAN'T



TO SOMEONE WHO WANTS TO BECOME A YOUTH WORKER, I WOULD SAY THAT IS A GREAT CHOICE! KEEP EVOLVING AND MOVING ON.



TO BE CONTINUED...





Walk THROUGH your PERSONAL STORY

MATEJ
CEPIV.

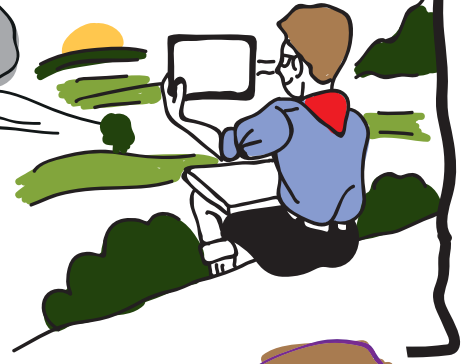


I WAS EVEN MORE BUT I STILL AM A YOUTH WORKER.



I STARTED BY STUDYING I.T., WHICH WAS A SORT OF FAMILY TRADITION. AT A CERTAIN POINT I HAD TO DECIDE WHAT WAS IMPORTANT FOR ME AND I FOUNDED AN ORGANIZATION CALLED "SOCIAL ACADEMY", WHICH IS ABOUT ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP ON THE BASIS OF HUMAN DIGNITY PRINCIPLES.

MY ROLE MODEL IS A PRIEST, CALLED RAFO PINOSA. HE WAS AMONG THE FOUNDERS OF SCOUTS IN SLOVENIA, MLANDSKI CEH, NATIONAL YOUTH COUNCIL AND HE IS CONNECTED TO PEDAGOGY OF GAMES.



THE MOST INSPIRING MOMENT FOR ME WAS WHILE WORKING AS AN ANIMATOR WITH KIDS, IN A 3 DAY PROGRAMME. IT WAS LIKE A SMALL MIRACLE: SOMETHING THAT DOES NOT TAKE YOUR ENERGY AWAY BUT GIVES YOU EVEN MORE.

THERE ARE MANY CHALLENGES: TIME, BEING THROWN OUT FROM YOUR SPACE, WORKING WITH THE EMPLOYEES. ALL THESE CHALLENGES HAVE THE COMMON ROOT IN YOUTH WORK NOT BEING FULLY RECOGNIZED.



TO A PERSON WHO WANTS TO BECOME A YOUTH WORKER I WOULD SAY: YOU SHOULD NOT BE TOO BRIGHT TO SHADE THE OTHERS, BUT HELP OTHERS FIND THE LIGHT.

TO BE CONTINUED...

A COMMON GROUND

BIRGIT RASMUSSEN



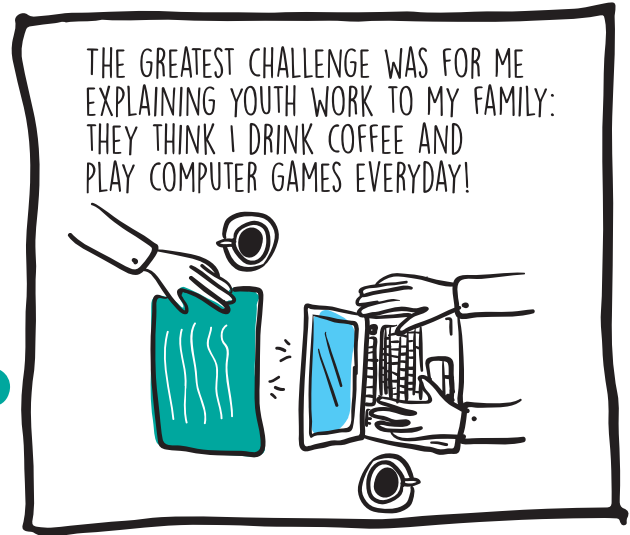
I AM A YOUTH WORK TRAINER.



FOR 7 YEARS I VOLUNTEERED AS AN EVENT PLANNER FOR A YOUTH FAIR.
NOW I AM ITS PROJECT MANAGER.
I ALSO WORK AT TALLIN UNIVERSITY, TEACHING YOUTH WORK.



THE MOST INSPIRING MOMENT FOR ME WAS THE 2017 YOUTH INFORMATION FAIR. I HAD THE MOST AMAZING TEAM OF YOUTH WORK STUDENTS THEY TOTALLY INSPIRED ME AND I WAS AN INSPIRATION FOR THEM.



A GOOD YOUTH WORKER SHOULD BE LIKED AND TRUSTED BY YOUNG PEOPLE. IF YOU WANT TO BECOME A YOUTH WORKER YOU MUST HAVE

PATIENCE & PASSION

AND BE UPDATED ALL THE TIME.



TO BE CONTINUED...

ASK

CREATIVE QUESTIONS

...JONAS AGDUR...

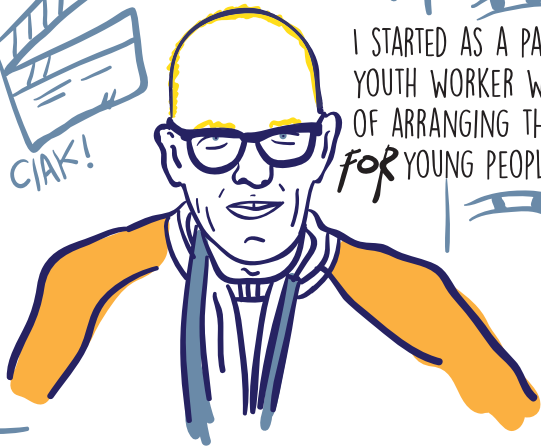
I WAS A YOUTH WORKER
FOR 18 YEARS.



I STARTED AS A PART TIME
YOUTH WORKER WITH THE TASK
OF ARRANGING THINGS
for YOUNG PEOPLE

TODAY I AM CHAIRING A NETWORK OF MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENTS FOR YOUTH WORK

I SOON FOUND THIS BORING AND TURNED
TO ARRANGING THINGS TOGETHER *with* YOUNG PEOPLE






MY ROLE MODEL IS THE NATURAL CAPACITY OF YOUNG PEOPLE.
I'M NOT DOING TRAINING FOR YOUNG PEOPLE


“BUT WITH
THEM”



OUR POLICY IS FOCUSED ON PARTICIPATION
AND THE SOCIAL NEEDS OF YOUNG PEOPLE.



THE CHALLENGE OF WORKING WITH YOUNG PEOPLE
IS ALWAYS POSITIVE.
THERE ARE ALWAYS WAYS
OF OVERCOMING OBSTACLES,
I DON'T SEE THEM AS
BIG THINGS



SUPPORT YOUNG PEOPLE TO REACH
THEIR DREAMS
ASK CREATIVE QUESTIONS
AND BELIEVE IN THE CAPACITY
OF YOUNG PEOPLE.

TO BE CONTINUED...

Marie-Julienne

FEAR

IS AN
OPPORTUNITY

I AM NOT A
YOUTH WORKER
BUT
I WORK
WITH
YOUNG PEOPLE
A LOT.

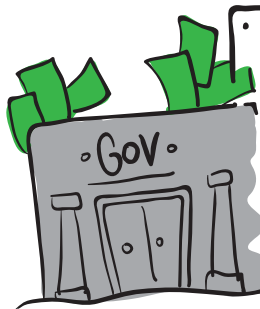


I STARTED WORKING IN THIS FIELD AFTER A YEAR ON EVS IN GERMANY. I REALISED HOW IMPORTANT IS TO HAVE PERSONAL ENCOUNTERS WITH PEOPLE FROM OTHER COUNTRIES IN ORDER TO HAVE ANOTHER PERSPECTIVE ON THE WORLD.



THE TIME SPENT WITH OTHER YOUNG PEOPLE FROM OTHER COUNTRIES, ESPECIALLY THOSE OUTSIDE EUROPE, HAS BEEN MY INSPIRATION. WORKING WITH REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS IS REALLY IMPORTANT, FOR IT BREAKS DOWN THE FEAR OF THE UNKNOWN.





THE GREATEST CHALLENGE FOR ME IS MENTORING YOUNG PEOPLE ABROAD, ESPECIALLY WHEN THERE IS A DIFFICULT SITUATION.

WE ALSO NEED MORE RECOGNITION BY THE GOVERNMENTS: THE IMPORTANCE OF NON-FORMAL EDUCATION NEEDS TO BE RAISED.



I CONSIDER MYSELF A GOOD YOUTH WORKER BECAUSE I HAVE CONVICTION, CONFIDENCE AND A STRONG LEVEL OF EMPATHY.



YOUNG PEOPLE NEED TO BE ACCOMPANIED IN THEIR GROWTH, AND YOU CAN PLAY A KEY ROLE IN THIS.



TO SOMEONE WHO WANTS TO BE A YOUTH WORKER I WOULD SAY:

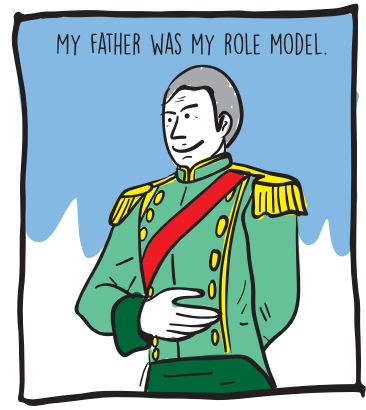
WE NEED YOU!



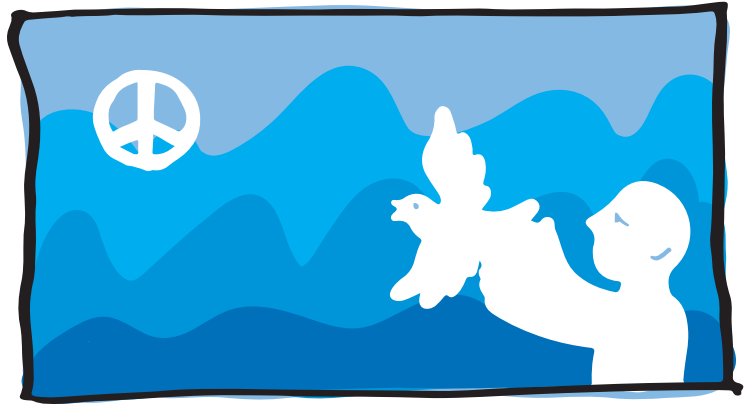
TO BE CONTINUED...



I GREW UP IN WESTERN BALKANS AND THE WAR INFLUENCED ME AND MY FAMILY A LOT. WE ARE NOW BASICALLY ALL YOUTH WORKERS, TRYING TO BUILD A BETTER SOCIETY I GUESS.



EVEN IF HE WAS A COLONEL IN THE ARMY HE HAD AN AMAZINGLY PEACEFUL WAY TO EMBRACE LIFE.



I DECIDED THAT I WANTED TO BECOME A YOUTH WORKER AFTER THE COMPLETION OF MY FIRST ONE YEAR LONG DEVELOPMENTAL WORKSHOPS WITH 20 YOUNG MONTENEGRIANS.



THE GREATEST CHALLENGE IS FOR ME ALWAYS GAINING

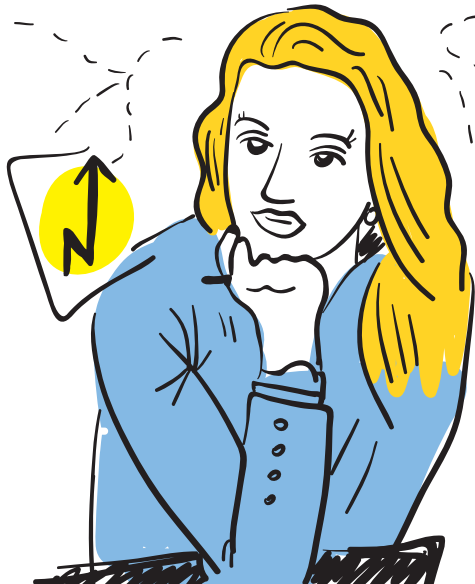
NEW KNOWLEDGE

NEW SKILLS

IMPROVING MYSELF



I AM A GOOD YOUTH WORKER BECAUSE I AM OPENMINDED AND READY FOR NEW EXPERIENCES AND CHALLENGES.



TO BE CONTINUED...

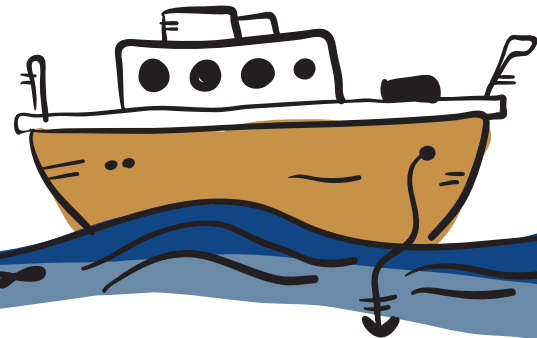
..GABI STEINPRINZ...

FOCUS ON

DIVERSABILITY!

I AM WORKING WITH YOUNG PEOPLE, IN AN INFORMAL SETTING, AS A VOLUNTARY CHOICE.

I ALWAYS FELT A STRONG CONNECTION WITH YOUTH WORK. I STARTED WORKING IN THIS FIELD AFTER GOING TO THE LOCAL YOUTH CENTER WITH MY BROTHER, WHERE THEY OFFERED ME TO JOIN IN LEISURE TIME ACTIVITIES AND ASKED ME IF I WANTED TO BECOME A BOARD MEMBER.



YOUTH WORK AND YOUTH TRAINING GO IN PARALLEL, BUT THEY ARE ALSO INTERCONNECTED. AS I AM A TRAINER, I AM A BETTER YOUTH WORKER AND AS A YOUTH WORKER, I AM A BETTER TRAINER. I FEEL THAT THEY BUILD ON EACH OTHER.



THE MILESTONES ON MY YOUTH WORKER PATH WERE MANY.
 IN 2006 I BECAME PART OF THE GLOBAL NETWORK GLOBALINKS;
 SOON AFTER I BECAME THE COORDINATOR OF THE COMMUNITY CENTER, AND THEN,
 3 YEARS AGO, I QUIT MY JOB AND BECAME A FREELANCE TRAINER.

I HAD MANY INSPIRING MOMENTS: THE PROJECT WITH KIDS FROM COLUMBIA;
 THE SERIES OF YOUTH EXCHANGES ART2B(INCLUDED) ON HOW TO BE INCLUDED THROUGH ARTS, CIRCUS
 AND THEATRE; TOPSY TURVY, A TRAINING THAT LOOKED IN AND OUT OF THE BOX WAY;
 AND FINALLY THE EDUCATIVE ESCAPE ROOMS, WHICH CAN BE PLACES WHERE PEOPLE FIND THEIR OWN ANSWERS.

RECOGNITION

HOW DO WE EXPLAIN WHAT WE ARE DOING?
 YOUTH WORK IS EDUCATIONAL, HAS A VALUE WHICH
 IS UNDERESTIMATED BY OTHERS: THAT IS A SHAME.


DON'T DO IT FOR THE MONEY! IT'S UNDERESTIMATED AND UNPAID.
 YOU NEED TO BE AN IDEALIST AND LOOK AT YOURSELF AS A
 AND NOT AS SOMEBODY WHO ALREADY KNOWS IT ALL.

LEARNER




TO BE CONTINUED...


GENUINE & HUMAN · SALLY SALEM ·



I AM A TRAINER
AND CURRICULUM
DESIGNER
FOR EDUCATION



I BECAME A TRAINER
THROUGH A 3-YEAR
SALTO PROGRAMME
WHERE MARK TAYLOR
WAS ONE OF THE
TRAINERS



I AM VERY DEDICATED
TO WHAT I DO
AND I CONSIDER MYSELF
TO BE SELFINSPIRED



A MILESTONE IN MY PATH AS A YOUTH WORKER WAS WHEN I FORMED MY FIRST GROUP AT 22, EVS IN 2004, AND THE WORK WITH THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE.



MY ROLE IS TO OPEN THE MINDS OF YOUNG PEOPLE AND GETTING INSPIRED BY THEM



MY BIGGEST CHALLENGE WAS WORKING IN EGYPT, BECAUSE OF THE CORRUPTION OF THE YOUTH CENTER THERE



IF YOU WANT TO BE A YOUTH WORKER
BE GENUINE
AND BE HUMAN



TO BE CONTINUED...

BE HUMAN BEYOND

ANTTI KORHONEN



I AM WORKING WITH YOUNG PEOPLE IN A YOUTH WORK STRUCTURE. I'M ALL ABOUT EDUCATION: IT HELPS US SURVIVE IN THIS CRAZY WORLD.



I STARTED AS A VOLUNTEER AT 14-15 YEARS OLD; THEN ALSO THE INTERNATIONAL ASPECT CAME IN, WHEN I PARTICIPATED IN MY FIRST YOUTH EXCHANGE, WHICH HAD A VERY STRONG IMPACT ON ME. MY CONNECTION TO YOUTH WORK ALSO INFLUENCED THE CHOICE OF MY STUDIES: SOCIAL PEDAGOGY. 7 YEARS AGO I STARTED WORKING FOR YOUTH CENTRES AND THAT HELPED ME DEVELOP MY IDENTITY AS A YOUTH WORKER.

MY ROLE MODEL IS THIS IRISH GUY I MET ON MY FIRST YOUTH EXCHANGE, WITH WHOM I'M STILL WORKING TOGETHER TO THIS DAY: HE'S LIKE A MENTOR TYPE.

A GREAT INFLUENCE ON ME.



BEING A YOUTH WORKER ☀ ISN'T IT ALL A CHALLENGE?
IT IS NOT A ROUTINE JOB, DAYS ARE FILLED WITH DIFFERENT SIZES OF CHALLENGES.
THESE MOMENTS MAKE YOU HUMAN, YOU CANNOT BE TRAINED FOR THAT.
THERE ARE HARD THINGS, THERE ARE ALSO CULTURAL CLASHES.
HERE I FIND THE IMPORTANCE OF BOTH EMPATHY AND INTUITION.



TO SOMEONE WHO WANTS TO BECOME A YOUTH WORK

I'D SAY: **JUST DO IT! IF YOU WANT IT!**

THEN YOU SHOULD HAVE A GO ☀ FOR ANYTHING!

TO BE CONTINUED...

A LOT OF SELF LEARNING IS NEEDED. SENAD SAKIPOWSKI.

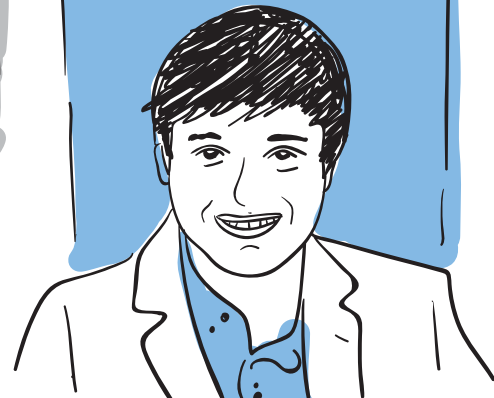
I GREW UP IN A YOUTH WORK.
HERE YOU CAN GET COMPETENCIES YOU COULD
NEVER GET IN FORMAL EDUCATION



I AM WORKING AS AN EDUCATIONAL PROVIDER,
BUT ALSO AS A PROJECT MANAGER AND
DESIGNER PROGRAMMER FOR THE
"INSTITUTE FOR ROMA AND MINORITIES".



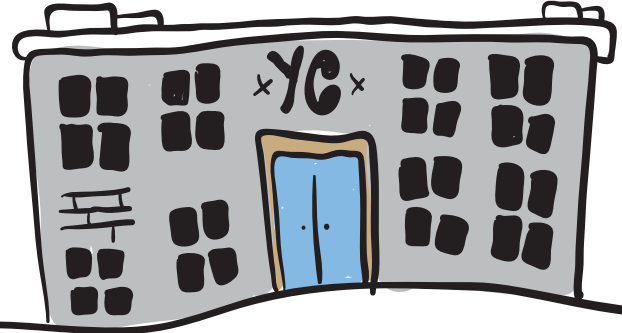
THE COMPETENCES I GAINED AND
THE PEOPLE I WORKED WITH HAVE
MADE ME A GOOD YOUTH WORKER



MY ROLE MODEL WAS A TRAINER I HAD WHEN I WAS A TEENAGER



THE MOST INSPIRING MOMENT FOR ME WAS WHEN WE ESTABLISHED THE YOUTH CENTER IN ROMA 3 YEARS AGO.

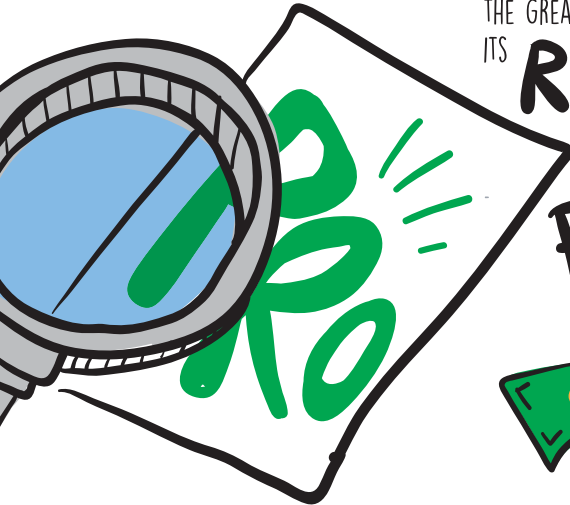


YOUTH WORK IS INSPIRING, ATTRACTIVE AND CHALLENGING. SURELY MORE INTERESTING THAN OTHER PROFESSIONS!

THE GREATEST CHALLENGE IN THIS WORK IS ITS

**RECOGNITION
AS
PROFESSION**

AND THE LACK OF RESOURCES



TO BE CONTINUED...

JUST CONNECT

ESZTER DOBAK



I AM A TRAINER.
I WORK WITH
ALL AGE GROUPS,
FROM KIDS TO ADULTS



AFTER UNIVERSITY I STARTED PARTICIPATING IN TRAINING FOR TRAINERS



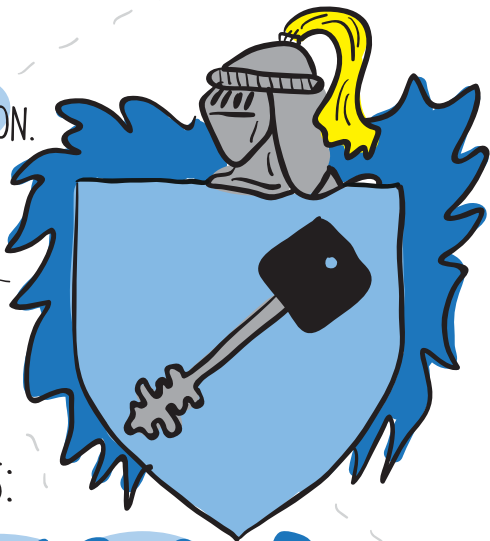
MY ROLE MODEL IS MY DRAMA TEACHER: SHE WAS EXCITED ABOUT US, SHE LISTENED, SHE HAD SENSE OF HUMOR.
ANOTHER ROLE MODEL IS MY OWN REFLECTION IN THE EYES OF THOSE TRUSTING ME WITH THEIR LIFE STORIES.





BEING A YOUTH WORKER MAKES ME A GOOD PERSON.

BEING HONEST,
HAVING INTEGRITY IS THE KEY



THERE ARE A LOT OF CHALLENGES:

**EVERYTHING & NOTHING
DEPENDS ON YOU!**

IF YOU WANT TO BECOME A YOUTH WORKER YOU DON'T NEED TO PROVIDE, JUST TRY TO CONNECT!

TO BE CONTINUED...



GO FOR IT

ALAN SMITH

I WORK IN A UNIVERSITY TEACHING YOUTH WORK.



WHEN I CAME BACK FROM THE ARMY, I WAS 19 AND WAS ASKED TO HELP WITH A PROJECT THAT WANTED TO DO OUTDOORS WORK WITH SOME YOUNG PEOPLE, THEY KNEW I WAS GOOD IN THIS FIELD. THE YOUNG PEOPLE I ENDED UP WORKING WITH WERE YOUNG OFFENDERS. THIS WAS WHEN I REALISED I COULD WORK WITH YOUNG PEOPLE AS A JOB.



GETTING A BACHELOR DEGREE IN YOUTH WORK WAS FOR ME A MAJOR MILESTONE. THEN GETTING MY FIRST JOB AFTER I QUALIFIED AS A YOUTH WORKER WHICH WAS WORKING WITH INDIVIDUALS ON ALTERNATIVES TO CUSTODIAL SENTENCING.



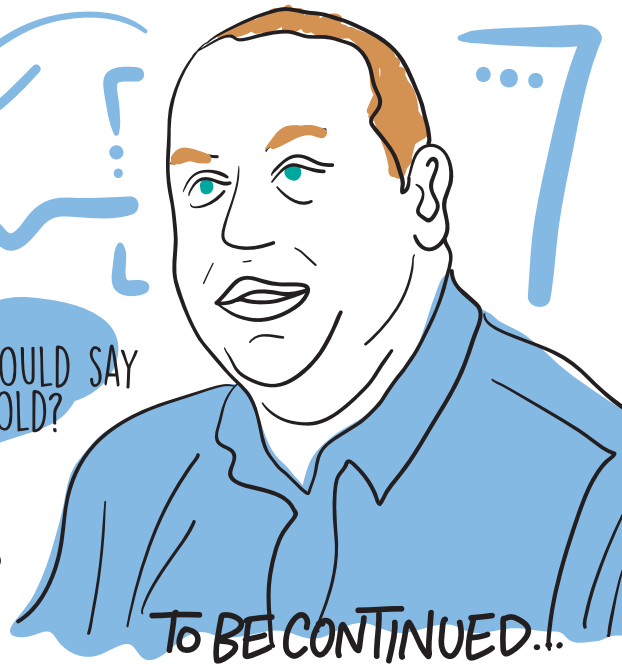
AS AN ACADEMIC NOW,
THE MOST INSPIRING THING IS FOR ME SEEING
THE PEOPLE I TAUGHT CHANGING LIVES.
BEING A PART OF THE JOURNEY OF OTHERS.

IRONICALLY YOUTH WORK IS ABOUT THE CHALLENGE
TO BE ACCEPTED AND HEARD FOR YOUNG PEOPLE,
AND MAYBE ALSO FOR YOUTH WORKERS.



TO SOMEONE WHO WANTS TO BECOME A YOUTH WORKER I WOULD SAY
DO YOU LIKE YOUNG PEOPLE? CAN YOU PUT YOUR LIFE ON HOLD?
IF YOU CAN GIVE EVERYTHING AND NOT EXPECT THANKS ☀

~ GO FOR IT! ~



TO BE CONTINUED..!

This publication '*Snapshots of youth workers' paths*' is the results of a series of fifteen interviews which have been conducted by *Snežana Bačlija Knoch* and *Nik Paddison* in the context of the first '*ETS Conference: The Quality Bonus*' which took place in Mainz, Germany, on 26-28 March 2018.

The interviews explored different education and training paths that led to youth work – professional or volunteer, and their richness steered the wish to visualise them, which is what this is about. We hope that you enjoy them!

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