European Youth Network Event

Taking it into our own hands, from Ideas to Impact



WELCOME

Magdalena Starostin, Head of Youth Outreach, European Parliament

Laura Popa, Youth Outreach Unit, European Parliament

A warm welcome to everyone, we are happy to have you all here today, including people who could not be there last night due to flight schedules or other engagements

One of the main purposes for organising the European Youth Network Event is to meet in person, and develop connections with all of you and between you all. Feedback from previous editions highlighted that for some people the event had enabled them to widen their perspectives and develop meaningful working relationships.

This third edition of the Youth Network event is particularly significant for one main reason: the idea for the topics of the event comes from one participant, who is present today. After attending the European Youth Event (EYE) she commented that there should be more youth participation in the follow up of the ideas generated in the EYE, as young people often do not know what happens to their ideas in the process. This has therefore been taken into account. It is always important to remember that there are some constraints and that the European Parliament cannot follow up on all the ideas. However, your involvement today is a sign that the European Parliament is listening and that it is keen to work with young people.







Laura Popa

CHECK IN

What do I wish to change for young people in Europe?



INSPIRATIONAL STORY



Milosh Ristovski

Milosh Ristovski, former Secretary General of Young European Federalists - JEF, shared his experience of lobbying, advocacy and the reality of moving ideas from organisational level to an institutional level. Originally from North Macedonia, Milosh has been active in youth policy and European politics for many years. He began as a youth worker on ethnicity dialogue in Serbia and North Macedonia. Then he realised that he wanted to be involved in advocacy and policy work at a European level. Milosh represented young European Federalists at the Conference of the Future of Europe (COFE), in his role as Secretary General of the European office, and on the basis of his leadership of the young European Federalists in the European elections of 2019.

The Conference of the Future of Europe originated two years ago, from an awareness of European politicians of the need to engage with citizens and start a new discussion on the future of Europe. The first conference was launched on the 9th May 2021. The way the Conference was designed did not initially allow for participation from civil societies organisations, and for young people and activists from NGOs and other sectors. The space was mostly for selected citizens and politicians. However, Milosh was part of a group of eight international civil society organisations that lobbied and advocated to make sure that the conference was more participatory and open to younger people from civil society organisations.

Milosh spoke about what he has learnt about moving an idea into something that makes a real difference or has real impact regardless of it being at a local or European level. There are some things that work well and have been learnt through both the campaigns to vote at the European elections and also the campaign to be recognised as a partner in the COFE.

"Firstly, it is important to understand internally what we are all doing, to have a strong shared vision and a clear understanding of our resources and where and how they will be spent. Experience with JEF (Young European Federalists) was that that there was a strong political vision and this could not be sacrificed if we went and spoke with other 'untraditional' organisations that do not speak the same as we did. Experience also show that it is important to create a core group of people in the organisation that will reinforce and support you in the change you want to make, and a larger group of supporters around them who might not be so committed but can support. In most cases, especially when working with partner organisations, it is important to broaden out your pool of allies and supporters. Here is a moment when we might run the risk of sacrificing our view when we speak with people who stand for something similar but not the same as you. This is the biggest discussion you will always have, how to keep your vision and at the same time stretch into speaking with different groups of people. It is always worth it because this way we broaden the movement and not just speak to the usual suspects. This way we become noticed by more stakeholders, you will find new people you never thought were going to be your biggest allies

There comes a moment in this stretching process when we enter a panic zone, where we don't participate and don't learn. This is a moment where you personally need to become very open and to speak with the team. Whenever we get into a change process there is also a personal side to it, our beliefs and values. In order to avoid problems, we each need to be clear about where the red lines are and where the personal motivations stop. We have to be honest with ourselves about the barriers, that people lose interest and resources are limited. But it is the personal motivations that we have to talk about at this stage.

Participation is not just a nice word in our partnership letters, we have to practice participation ourselves. Not just in the moment of implementing something, we ourselves have to involve people from the start in our work. This was our key success factor in mobilising thousands of Europeans and hundreds of organisations in our Edge of Europe Campaign. We had more than 1 million hits on social media because we involved the stakeholders in the planning and preparation. This created a sense of ownership, follow up and responsibility.

Finally, learning for me has been the main motivator, the red line of my values that I feel in myself and was open with everyone about. I am a young person and I want to be there; I stand for integration and a bigger European Union. I have tried to make sure I have a space for my personal development in this whole process. What we are learning more and more is that the change we want and the ideas we have do not become reality unless the work is done at an EU level. However, they HAVE to also be discussed and acted on at a local level and national level. It is absolutely key; nothing will move without this local work"

OUR STORIES OF IMPACT

Sharing inspiring stories of our experience of moving ideas into impact and making a real difference







From the stories, what are the crucial elements that could be used to move from ideas to impact?

Tangible Elements	Intar	ngible Elements
- Campaigns (be involved, events, organisation, sing that we are there)	- Keep the focus, dedication of time	- Community + safe space to fail + learn
- Get connected with other organisations in order to support each other's projects for	- Passion, belief, willingness	- Facilitating conversation
- Fin the right people, External support (from adults and financial support	- Edu(inter)cation	- Motivation for social impact
- In-person conversations and debates with accessible language and safe spaces	- Vision, Shared ownership	- Trust
- Cooperation (internal and external)	- Planning	- Guidance EU connecting
- Identifying an issue/problem	- Having a motivated team with a common vision	- Local impact Global impact
- Having a motivated team with a common vision	- Always push forward more ideas and initiatives, support	- Trick
- Starting from a concrete need and listen to the community	- No scarcity of resources	- Youth empowerment (give them the ways to lead the process)
- Think global act local	- Internal push (building a community, staying	- Mindset: sustained effort
- Ambassador (representation + involvement of people in the process)	consistent with values, using constructive criticism)	- Visibility and rewards for efforts

GROUP CONVERSATIONS

Framing from Hannah Maes, EYE Programme Coordinator

Before we start our conversation, I hope to clarify how we can go beyond the traditional way of you coming up with lots of ideas which go into a report and then us saying, nice thank you but we cannot do that.

The reason we choose this topic of 'from ideas to action' was that in the past we have been very focussed, in the European Youth Event (EYE), in generating ideas, asking you to give us your best and your brightest ideas. It is a good start but it can lead to an expectation from young people that we receive ideas, hand them over to MEPs, some sort of revolution happens in a committee meeting and they become legislation. However, it does not work that way, the real work of putting ideas into action is very complex and complicated, and it requires a team effort on many levels. In the past we might not have communicated it enough or not provided people with the tools to navigate this process.



Hannah Maes

We want to enable young people to develop their ideas, to empower young people to come up with more ideas but also, we want to impart some knowledge about the way the European Parliament works, because it is a big institutional system.

We still see the youthideas.eu platform as the central platform where people can share their ideas. We also see room for independent editors as we do not think it should be us who decides what is good and what should be developed further or not. We also continue to see a role for together.eu, a community where you can connect with other likeminded young Europeans. We are interested to know how we can develop this and what kind of resources you need to make this a good inclusive space, also, what can you offer to the process that we cannot do ourselves?

During the EYE we have an ideas hub and a digital corner where you can go and get resources and a photo booth. There is an ideas development corner and a networking and chill area where you can connect to others and share ideas. There is also a space for ideas ambassadors to sign up and an expert corner where we would like to invite local and regional experts to come in and talk about some initiatives that are already happening.

The main question we have now is How do we develop this ideas process? How do we build capacity? What is an ideas ambassador? Do we even need them? and is the name right? We are open about talking to you about this today.

After the EYE we have the report which again raises the question of how do we decide which ideas to take forward and report on them? How do we make sure the MEPs get this information? How can we make the reporting a meaningful process?

We do have some constraints; the next EYE will happen in 2023 and the European Elections in 2024. That will shape a lot of our work and the programme and the time we have to do other things. Also, we do not have a big budget and we do have to justify how we spend it. Another constraint we have is with the MEPs. Many come to us and ask us to put things before the MEPs to get them to sign up, make them aware of what young people feel. We cannot, we are not allowed to do this as we are part of the administration and have to remain politically neutral, which involves a lot of balancing exercises.

So, my final question for you is, what else should we be doing? What else can you do and what can we can do together? I am looking forward to the results and I hope you have fun.

What do young European need that we together can turn into tangible actions?

- Fight adultcentrism, discrimination of young people
- Peace and solidarity: Promote shared identity Reinforce our common interests – Teaching and applying conflict resolution mechanism
- Impose education according to the needs of people and society
- Focus more on day-to-day priorities (like housing)
- Equal opportunities and encourage wider participation
- Inclusion, lobbyism
- Easier access to information and opportunities
- Equality
- Influence (youth lobby) but for real
- Young people need help to access programmes
- Build bridges not ladders
- Greater diversity and inclusion of more people
- Integrated transparent information
 Transparency of: the funding process, the opportunities, what happens with the ideas, how the process works
 - Accessible information (platforms)
 - Shared platform to communicate and receive funds
 - Greater accessibility and integration of information
 - Access to European opportunities (clarity + centralisation)
 - Involving: Direct development of young people (forums, ownership of the ideas) – 'Simulation of decision making'
 - Accessibility of resources, of opportunities, intersectionality, of information, to participate
 - Improved Communication and flow of information (within EU institutions)
 - Efficient use of public funds to maximise impact: Less fancy official events, more leniency towards shortfalls in event delivery by small scale organisations
 - Promote and simplify





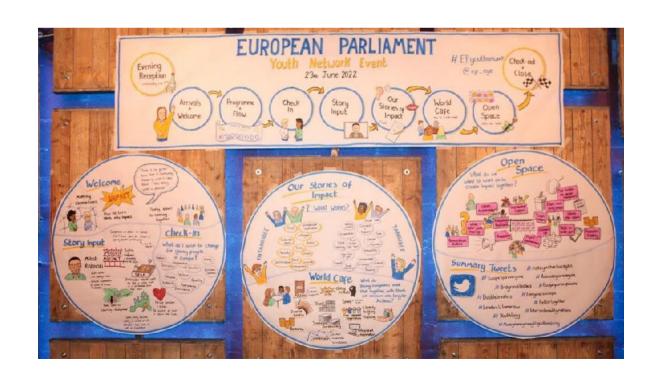


. Simplified bureaucracy

. More diverse inclusion - Access

- . Greater connection between MEPs and Youth organisations
- . Targeted support
- . Capacity Building Training
- . Free Independent Youth Organisations
- . Money, Funding

- Direct involvement in the implementation of policies
- A better connection between the youth and the MEPs
- Non-formal education: Opportunities and recognition Youth pass and validation – Develop a strong sense of ambassadorship
- Mental health access
- Safe space to not have all the answers and/or fail
- Young people who are disadvantaged are disconnected from the programmes – They need assistance targeted for them
- Capacity building aimed at youth organisations who do not normally get engaged with European policies
- Youth capacity building: Mentoring, training, guidance
- Empower more youth organisations to be drivers of change
- Conditions for youth-led NGOs to operate freely and independently
- Money Geld Dinero Diners Koruna Airgead
- Sustainable finance
- Funding: Information about it, trainings on how to access it, clarity on the criteria, more money



OPEN SPACE

Developing ideas into impact - Based on the needs we surfaced collectively, what do we want to work on to create impact together?

Title: HOW DO WE MAKE YOUTH ADVOCACY POSSIBLE FOR EVERYONE	
Host & Participants	MARIA : Christina: Anastasia: Margarida: Beatriz: Marta: Gabi.
General discussion	The thought that you need a lot of experience to participate It is demotivating not to see results - how do you keep people engaged? Age/Experience you are not taken seriously Social economic background - compensation Information: everything in one place Accessible language Different opportunities in different areas - no examples Knowing the compensation thing / paid costs, can't commit
3 Key insights	Clear information on costs and compensation Accessible language Attitudes towards young people
Actions	Explaining everything in an accessible and understandable way No assumptions about the 'others' Informing about the costs or events for example before sending applications Compensating the time for the advocacy work
A Tweet	#ADVOCACY FOR EVERYONE

Title: HOW CAN WE GET MORE PEOPLE INVOLVED?	
Host & Participants	PRODROMOS TZUNOPOULA: Ella: Marie: Loredana: Ursa: Celine: Girlinea: Alexandra: John: Max: Ambrose: Cesayo: Hanna: Peter.
General discussion	There is an engagement problem - give people the option to choose between 2 solutions Show them the impact they are having Digital solutions, TikTok - Innovation How do we make board positions more attractive? - social events, team building, offer opportunities - official recognition schemes, diplomas, certificates issues by credible authority Information - raising awareness Feedback is key
3 Key insights	Things got worse after COVID Visibility or the lack of innovation and change
Actions	Raise awareness of volunteering, create more opportunities Social media promotions Collaboration between groups showing visibility of results
A Tweet	#BEINVOLVEDANDEVOLVE #escape your comfort zone

Title: LINK UP EU YOUTH ENGAGEMENT	
Host & Participants	Julius: Maria: Joao
General discussion	TANGIBLE: Common EU youth engagement workplaces, set goals Link with the European Youth Conference - 3-year cycle and rhythm Creating shared commitments and follow up INTANGIBLE: Continuity: red thread - Co ordination
3 Key insights	Going in circles is bad, waste of money and loss of trust Make EU dialogue the connecting kit between programmes Establish one inter institution youth outreach unit
Actions	Include EYE ideas in EYD and youth conferences (both at EU and national level) Connect EYE with EYE ideas and with all other programmes
A Tweet	#YOUTHENGAGEMENTISBETTERTOGETHER

Title: ACCESSIBILITY OF EU FUNDING FOR SMALL ORGANISATIONS	
Host & Participants	JULIUS: Hanna: Floriane: Vitoria:Celine:Anna: Emile
General discussion	Problems: Application process - time consuming jargon, complex Financial capacity requirements - cofunding % Discrimination on grounds of political affiliation, religion, ethnicity Lack of non-project funding - Lack of comms from EU about funding opportunities Use of in-house expertise in grant writing Solutions (actions) Visibility of previous projects - Free training and mentoring Stop redundancy in application Qs - More sensitive open applications Timelines and more structured funding dates - Increase multi stage type process - Reduce burden for stage A
3 Key insights	Free training and mentoring Easier application and youth friendly More structured grants
A Tweet	#MONEYMONEY

Title: CULTURE DEMOCRACY AND DEMOCRATISATION OF CULTURE	
Host & Participants	MANU ROJO
General discussion	Culture at the moment is a privilege - how can we make culture accessible for all? How to make access to funding easier Community based initiatives Culture democracy, spaces hubs, material, education Democratisation of culture- accessibility High Culture, cultural identities Culture changes with different generations
3 Key insights	Co-operation between public institutions and cultural associations/ foundations Use culture as a tool for social inclusion The democratisation of the term culture
Actions	Reconvert abandoned spaces for culture Implement the European Artist Statute - Promote industry and economic development Good work conditions Give value to every kind of art - Promote folklore

Title: HOW CAN WE ELECT MORE YOUTH ?	
Host & Participants	PHILIPPE
General discussion	
3 Key insights	Find people and mentor them Build bridges between each other Have a platform to vote for young candidates
Actions	Create pages Plan for 2024 EP Elections Work with young voter association

Title: HOW TO BURST TH	E BUBBLE : GET YOUNG PEOPLE IN REMOTE AREAS INVOLVED IN THE DECISION MAKING OF COMMUNITY LIFE
Host & Participants	PATRIK- RO: Ines (IT) Zafeiris (GR) Jens (NL) Lindayala (UA) Petar (SI) Tatiana (FI)
General discussion	Comparison between the situation in the different countries Definition - what do we mean by participation? Structural problems: lack of resources, emotional awareness, purpose ambition dreams Sharing good practices: the Finnish model Engage with youth through their channels, get to know how they think and live We who are discussing this, are we in a bubble ourselves? - debate this How to create more opportunities in the periphery? Increase accessibility to projects, eliminate the barriers that create trust issues Give people a taste of the project though exciting workshops and small events where they can experience moments of co-operation / decision making / diplomacy Virtuous examples Netherlands Europemobile
3 Key insights	It is all about helping young people to understand their needs/ gain awareness of their potential
Actions	Create a help desk offer Mentoring to ask for advice or mind metal health
A Tweet	# MAKE YOUTH ACTIVE AGAIN. # BUBBLE BREAKERS

Title: WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THE YOUTH HEARINGS		
Host & Participants	CHARLOTTE: Floriana: Grazia: Orkhanna: Milda	
General discussion	Bring in more MEPs during the EYE - More information is needed, what ideas are feasible Youthideaseu: highlight the top ideas and encourage the discussion to keep going Have other moments where the youth ideas could be presented Let MEPs pledge for an idea Make the ideas more concrete and feasible, invite MEPs assistants and experts to discuss ideas further Make the ideas admirable: design the report more attractively Choose MEPs according to their policy areas Prepare the presentations with more background knowledge We need a platform where we can continue the discussion around the ideas and a list of MEPs who are working in the field After the hearings: write a newsletter, blog post about the ideas process and create a social media campaign Volunteering opportunities for young people who could follow up Invite other project holders to the hearings who could develop a project Ask the young people who will present to certain aspects with the usages of visuals, podcasts, medium of their choice - With who do we want to discuss the ideas Organise fun events before starting the ideas process Engage more youth organisations in the process (invite them as well to pledge) - Present ideas to think tanks Needs information about the process, have a network with all kinds of people and organisations who are working in this field, a communication channel for them	
3 Key insights	More information is needed to submit concrete ideas We need a platform where all people who are interested in the idea/field can exchange Let the young people choose the medium of their choice to report on the follow up process	
Actions	Give proper training and expert meetings that will allow young people to submit tangible ideas Provide trainings and information & form a network of different people interested in the ideas #TRAININGSANDNETWORK	

Title: FROM YOUTH IDEAS TO THE IDEAS HUB @ EYE 2023	
Host & Participants	SOFIA : Manu: Grania: Peter: William
General discussion	At the EYE discuss direct implementation of the ideas. Have calls with experts on the topic and the ideas given online before - to explain better the idea, what has been done already on this idea, how to bring it further. Comment section, youth EU. ideas to debate - debate space to point out different ideas and take into account divergent views - allow to vote and to comment, but also give space to contradict ideas if one disagrees Promo to make people aware Follow up shorter and real so that people read it and know something is happening - ongoing follow-up - comments from experts about what is going on to this idea, if it has been implemented, etc. Vote: Diverse audience - allow to vote for the favourite ideas Manifest statistics (e.g.: topics of most interest in which countries) - to give statistic of what topics are more interesting to young people from what country Live sessions with ideas givers to explain and discuss - e.g.: regularly, online, about the most popular ideas Have a workspace for those who want to keep developing Connect with existing CSOs etc (add option to connect with idea givers) Merge ideas, publish the roadmap of what was selected, notify givers - roadmap of how the merged idea became what it is - so the process is transparent - notify people whose ideas have been merged Ideas cycle from after EYE directly - Policy comments and references - add references and the links to the expert info Promote platform to EYE applicant - Suggest to apply to EYE for those who applied submitting the idea - in the follow up email to "your idea have been published" add a line on the EYE - to apply (when the application process is open) and to keep an eye on the applications before that - so they know the EYE will be the next step, and know that they should apply to discuss their idea
3 Key insights	Follow up with idea givers - Live sessions to discuss with givers and experts - More interactivity on the platform
Actions	implement all the good ideas we have

Title: YOUTH /EYE IDEAS AMBASSADORS	
Host & Participants	LAURA: Wim: Adam:Elias:Manu: Luca: Alexandrina: Luigi: Joar: Othiia: Anastasia.
General discussion	Resources - travel to Brussels Is it feasible for one person to do it or should it be an organisation? Little development companies adopted some of the sustainable development goals Formulate goals from the EYE report Climate Pact ambassadors are doing this - inspiration Which level could the idea turn into reality, EU, National or local? Lobbying MEPs is not as hard as we think Turning MEPs into ambassadors as well To select ambassadors, make clusters and select YOrgs active in that cluster Use the panel of expert organisations from the EYE report group EYE goals related to youth goals
3 Key insights	GOALS - EYE - Who eg coalition or individual selection
Actions	Involved at the EYE 2) Formulate goals Report on actions before next EYE and selection cycle
A Tweet	#A COALITION OF YOUNG PEOPLE PUSHING FORWARD EYE GOALS AFTER EVERY EYE

Title: NETWORKING AMONGST YOUTH ORGANISATIONS	
Host & Participants	MAURO G FERRANDIZ/ SONIA
General discussion	Create forums for sharing information current platforms - together EU/Youth portal don't work for us Create an event for youth organisations to share knowledge and skills Have thematic meetings to share knowledge Collect contact info from all assistants to EP youth network Add your info on the excel spreadsheet today
3 Key insights	There is a real need for collaboration Skills needed to grow and have impact are unknown Youth organisations need a forum for information sharing
Actions	Create a slack channel Consolidate the forum by obtaining funding and creating a digital platform Develop lobbying strategies to improve youth platforms
A Tweet	#REALYOUTHNETWORKING #cooperateYNE

Title: FROM IDEAS TO THE EYE REPORT		
Host & Participants	ANNA TANGO: Anastasia: Leo James Smith: Elias Fjeilander: Gaspar Zaf: Maira Lailabayer: Adam Lambe: Kasa: Viktoria: Alexandrina G.	
General discussion	Collab EP and editors (come from young people when giving ideas) and youth organisations There are many reports out there can we make it stand out? Look at trends from previous reports - 2014,16,18 and 2021 Infographics, interactive, online, acknowledge representation reality, stats and experts, risk assessment Filter the most voted on - put into clusters Explain how it came about Collect examples of best practice Work the recommendations together Identify areas to work further in connection with the EYE Reflection - what can you do? Communicate about report in connection with their values, mission, goals Letting authors know if their ideas are voted for or acted upon	
Actions	Divide up collab - EP/Editors?YOs Connect with stats and best practice Involve YOs in communication about the report	
A Tweet	# NO ONE READS REPORTS, TOGETHER LETS MAKE THIS AN INTERESTING ONE TO READ	

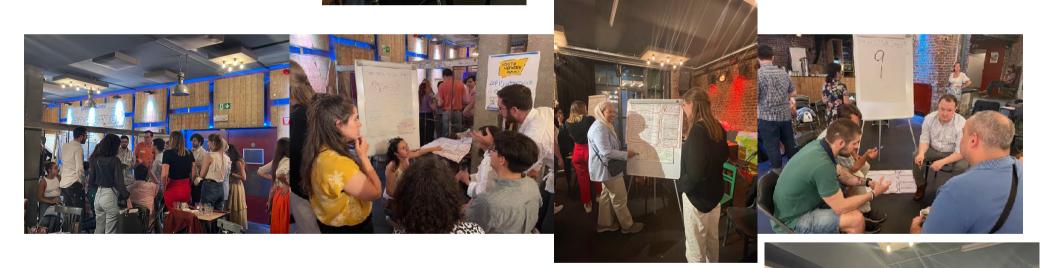
Title: HOW TO CREATE A MORE DIVERSE (REAL) EUROPE - A PLEDGE (WE NEED A FOLLOW UP)		
Host & Participants	FATIMA: Monika: Ella: Jens: Raquel: Raquel: Linda: Maria: Maria Sara; Suzanna: Anna: Raziiye: Tomas: Sonia: Margarida: Beagtriz: Dianna: Selina: Guisy: Magali	
General discussion	Students, workers, unemployed Non binary, cis - hetero, trans - Women and men Bi nationality, migrant, refugee Ethnic minority, ROMA, Multilingualism Religious, diversity, Arabic, Latin, Black, Judaism, Islam, Christianity, atheist, agnostic Disabilities, visual, hidden, mental Economic classes, higher Sexual orientation - Political orientation Age - Administrative situation	
3 Key insights	Ensure diverse representation at institutions - not tokenism or Quota Promote education awareness change the school curriculum Lift up diverse leaders in our organisations	
Actions	Safe spaces - begin with our own organisations Think about the language we use Empower and support mass democracy Surveys, data and needs guidelines Social class inclusivity	
A Tweet	# EVERYONE IS EUROPE #INTERSECTIONALITY MATTERS. DEMOCRATIC PARTICIPATION NEEDS EVERYONE	

Title: CREATING YOUTH ENGAGEMENT SUPPORT COMMUNITIES		
Host & Participants	JOANNA - Alexander: Laurent: Gunes: Christina: Maria: Coen	
General discussion	Mentorship model - create a support network, peers, experts, training Mentorship programme that can be adopted by NGOs with support from the municipality, anyone can be a mentor after following a training and adopting a charter of behaviour Trust building, sharing previous stories, logistical prep, conflict management, emotion, non-violent communication Mentors should be paired on needs/ expertise matching Destroy the ladder	
3 Key insights	There is YOU in Youth - young people have different and individual needs, goals and contexts, and require different strategies and approaches. Youth stakeholders, schools and families, local communities need to be engaged from youth with support/for youth	
Actions	Erasmus and KAZ strategic partnership to develop and pilot the model and get funding. Including training manual creation, local pilots, marketing strategy to reach mentor, mentees	
A Tweet	#BRIDGESNOTLADDERS	

Title: HOW TO USE NEW TECHNOLOGIES IN YOUTH WORK		
Host & Participants	AGNE	
General discussion	Gamification, Simulation Teleparty Itacathon Ganna - Slack discord - Jenga with questions 3D printing wouscoin.com (reward) free Diverse communication - Hybridisation Kahoot, Mentimeter, Slido Imagination playground Service design and design thinking Badge wallets - Youth map	
3 Key insights	It helps involve youth Free use for NGOs needed Hybridisation	
Actions	Present more tech opportunities	
A Tweet	# YOUTHLOGY	







A BIG THANK YOU FROM THE YOUTH OUTREACH TEAM