SOCIAL INCLUSION – OUT OF THE BOX
NGO INFORMATION

Organisation name: **Youth Exchange Service [YES]**

Country: **Netherlands**

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Website: **www.yesnow.nl**

NGO Short description

Youth Exchange Service [YES] is an organization, which gives space for young people to develop creative ideas and initiatives. We believe in equality and embrace diversity as an enriching element of our lives and that of young people. We promote non-formal education and self-directed learning. We are founded to develop international and (g)local projects on topics that support a better world. We don't go along with what others do, we think about what we feel that should be done and is interesting and find our own way to create them. YES is considered to be out-of-the-box and innovative.

YES is active in the field of non-formal education, mainly with support of ErasmusPlus –Youth in Action, European education programme. We have organized many youth exchanges, European Voluntary Service, Training Courses and long-term cooperation projects, like Capacity Building and Strategic Partnerships. We have set up a trainer Academy to support junior trainers to develop their facilitation skills and to set up educational training activities.

Field of work (which are the main domains your organizations works on)**:**

- Social Inclusion and promotion of diversity
- Creativity and (community) arts
- Creative Learning environments and competence development
- Gender equality
- Nature & sustainability

We work with divers groups of young people, including young people with fewer opportunities.

How do you work with youth? (methodology used and examples of activities)

We work in a creatieve experiential way and based on the needs and interests of young people. We work with non-formal methods and with creative and challenging learning environments.

Youth Exchanges:
Art2be Included - DANCE – Melting for future – Melting theatre – Trash Project

Training Courses:
Eco-Freak show - Exploring New Shores – Trainig Course on Dealing with change and Personal development
Mpowering U2 lead Uth – Training course on Leadership and Development of international youth projects.
The Threshold - Training course on personal development & vulnurability in a nature environment
Topsy Turvy Leanring Experience – Training course on Non-linear Learning, Learning in Chaos & Complexity.

Long-term cooperation projects:
Looking at Learning L@L – Startegic partnership with Latvia and Spain on Creative Learning Environments with local pactivities in an international context.

Structure of organization:

We are a volunteer organization and we have an open non-hierarchic structure. We have an official board of 3 persons, but they are not the only decision-makers. Decisions are made together and ideas are being discussed together and developed by those who are interested in doing that.

Number of workers in organization: (0 paid workers), 6 volunteer workers

0 paid workers, 7 volunteers

Number of volunteers in organization: 7

<p style="text-align:center; color:orange;">Social Inclusion - OUT OF THE BOX</p>

What is the project Social Inclusion - OUT OF THE BOX for your organization? (in one sentence)

Social Inclusion- Out of the Box is what YES stands for; this project gives us opportunity to share our passions and develop collective material and activities to support people who need it.

What you/your organisation expect to learn/gain in this project?

- We hope to get new insights and new inspirations by sharing experiences with professionals and supporters of inclusion.
- We will get to know and understand realities all over the world.
- We expect to reinforce cooperation with our long-term partners and establish solid co-operations with new partners.
- The project gives us opportunities to develop local projects in an international context.

<p style="text-align:center;">Current situation regarding Inclusion in your country</p>

a) which is the understanding/definition of Inclusion in your environment (social and political)?

Inclusion in the Nteherlands means:
- Being an active member of society
- Being autonomous (being as independent as possible)
- Having choices and making own decisions about own life
- Having opportunities to learn and self-develop
- Having dignity and respect for privacy

b) who are in your country included and excluded youth?

- homeless
- immigrants and refugees
- people with psychological problems
- people with learning difficulties, physical or sensory difficulties
- women
- people with a different sexual orientation or outside the binary genders (man/woman)

c) which are the social groups that have a stronger need for Inclusion in your area? Why are them in this situation?

- immigrants and refugees
- people with learning difficulties, physical or sensory difficulties
- women
- LGBTQ youngsters
- young people with low social-economical background

d) What is done for social inclusion in your country?

Quite a lot, but never enough. Small groups of conscious low-profile and high profile activists fight for equal rights and social inclusion, but often we find ourselves surrounded by people who are not so understanding and inclusive. Especially for people with physical and intellectual disabilities good policies have been developed for inclusion and maximum autonomy, but with the appropriate support.

On a political level many ways of support has been established, but there is still much to be done. For example there are many possibilities for man and women to work part-time and to share task around the education and care for the children. At the same time the level of women in higher positions in organizations and businesses is disappointing and women still don't get the same paid for the same work as men.

As a result of our Calvinistic history with a focus on humanity/ generosity, The Netherlands is a country with a large amount of volunteers., about 50% is volunteering in some way, and the average is 18 hours per month. Many of these volunteers work on social inclusion and that has a positive effect on the inclusion of many groups of people with fewer opportunities.

There is also a big difference how social inclusion is approached and understand in cities and small towns.