

INSIGHTS INTO YOUTH-LED EXPERIENCES FOR LOCAL POLICY-MAKING IN MIGRATION ISSUES

This paper is part of a selection of good practices gathered from the E-LoCUM partner countries. These examples showcase successful models and mechanisms for fostering youth participation in migration-related initiatives. The initiatives described serve as practical references for youth workers, educators, and practitioners, offering real-world examples of how youth engagement can be effectively structured and implemented.

These practices are designed not only to inspire but also to encourage creative thinking about how similar models could be adapted to your own local contexts. Furthermore, the practical insights from these models will provide additional "food for thought" to deepen discussions on migration and democratic participation.

Youth Council simulation in a Youth Centre (Italy)

- **Location:** City of Pordenone - Italy
- **Year of creation:** 2019
- **Status:** Mixed initiative (public/private/no profit)

Context and background: It was implemented as an activity of the Youth Center in Pordenone. The Social service agreed. Youth Center involves both local young people and youth with migrant background.

Youth engagement strategies: The used strategies combine both creative media activities and legislative engagement, providing youth with diverse ways to participate in their communities and understand migration issues in both creative and formal settings.

1. Creative media storytelling: photo, video, and audio stories

Objective: To foster team-building skills, encourage imagination, and boost creativity through the development of collaborative media projects.

Location: This activity can take place in various environments, both indoors and outdoors, or even in natural surroundings, offering flexibility based on the group's preferences and weather conditions.

Task: Participants are divided into small groups to create a story using different media formats. Each group is assigned either video, audio, or photo as their medium, and they collaborate to develop a story based on a given theme, such as:

- What does migration mean to you?
- How would you explore a new country upon arrival?
- What are common stereotypes about migrants?

Once completed, each group presents their project to the others, fostering a shared learning experience and opening up discussions on the topic of migration.

Materials Needed:

- Camera or smartphone with a full battery for recording or photography.
- A screen or TV for presentations.
- A social media platform or community chat for sharing digital content.
- A reliable sound system for audio-based presentations.

Participants:

- Groups of 3–6 young people.
- 1–2 facilitators to guide the process.

Timeframe: Approximately 3 hours.

Senses engaged: Sight and hearing.

Target audience: Youth aged 13 and above.

Considerations:

- Weather conditions for outdoor activities.
- Privacy laws regarding the sharing of photos and videos.
- Time constraints and parental consent if sharing content publicly.
- Basic safety measures should be in place, particularly for outdoor activities, ensuring that participants are aware of their surroundings.

2. Legislative engagement: City Council meetings & Youth Week

City Council meetings: In order to engage youth in formal governance and increase their interest in local development, young people can be introduced to the workings of their local city government. Youth council members are recognized by the mayor and given an active role during city council meetings. This gives them first-hand experience in civic processes and allows them to voice their perspectives on local governance issues.

Youth Week: Youth Week is an annual event, usually held in the spring, that involves youth in a series of celebratory and educational activities. Separate committees are created for each event, with a youth chairman appointing a leader for every committee. The goal is to foster leadership and organizational skills among young people, while also making them feel more connected to their community.

Considerations:

- **Scheduling:** Make sure that Youth Week is well-planned, with enough time to prepare for various activities.
- **Inclusivity:** Ensure that the events represent the interests and ideas of a diverse group of young people.