

Follow-up of the “Participation in all its forms” symposium in Schengen, Luxembourg



Following the symposium organised by the Benelux countries partners in April 2007 for and in cooperation with the Partnership between the Council of Europe and the European Commission in the framework of the

« All Different – All Equal » campaign, the organisers met once again to draw the conclusions of this event which brought together more than 120 participants in Schengen. During this « follow-up seminar » held from

2-5 December in Larochette (L), the results of the symposium and the young people's recommendations were analysed by the members of an organisation group comprising representatives from the three Benelux countries, the Council of Europe and the European Commission.

The main conclusions were as follows:

The working group concluded that there are several definitions and ideas linked to the concept of « Youth participation ». In order to avoid useless confusion, it recommended to agree on some theoretical basis. The Council of Europe was invited to publish a reference document outlining the numerous works carried out under its auspices in a general framework.

Another conclusion concerned ways of allowing active participation for young people who are mainly traditional (participation in youth councils, youth organisations, etc). In order

to encourage the young people to become involved in citizenship the group recommended more attentiveness to the new modes of participation and more promotion of them. Moreover, the Youth sector should not limit its intervention field to youth organisations but should look further into developing cooperation with other sectors such as culture or sport which involve a large

number of young people and offer interesting opportunities in training experience. The working group considered it important to grant more care to the youth life frame and underlined the need for promoting a « culture of participation » and to target families and schools.

Finally, networking between institutions working in the field of youth participation should be better supported and developed and information on good practice and participation strategies should be provided. The European Knowledge Centre of Youth Policies should be developed in this direction.

The full report about this meeting is available on the Partnership website : http://www.youth-partnership.net/export/sites/default/youth-partnership/documents/EKCYP/Youth_Policy/Report_Larochette_3-5_12_07.pdf

