



Working for Youth and Community Empowerment

YEPP International Resource Centre (YEPP IRC) at the Institute for Community Education, International Academy for innovative Pedagogy, Psychology and Economics (INA) gGmbH at the Free University of Berlin

Background

The “YEPP” approach and methodology was developed by the Youth Empowerment Partnership Programme (2001-2011), which was an initiative by a group of European and US foundations to find ways to empower young people at risk of social exclusion in communities which offered little or no opportunities. “YEPP” was implemented and evaluated by the International Academy for Innovative Pedagogy, Psychology and Economics (INA) gGmbH/Institute for Community Education (ICE), a non-profit organisation at the Free University of Berlin, Germany.

The “YEPP” approach has achieved life-changing, positive and lasting results for the young people and communities involved.

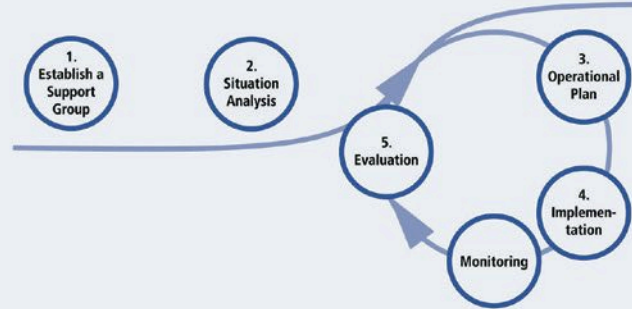
In 2012 we set up the YEPP International Resource Centre (YEPP IRC) at INA/ICE to help more communities to empower their young people and to improve their communities.



YEPP Concept of Change for Youth and Community Empowerment

“YEPP” is a well-tested and widely recognised approach for youth and community empowerment in disadvantaged areas. It is based on the YEPP Concept of Change; a set of common principles, goals and working methods aiming at facilitating empowerment processes and fostering local change.

This concept includes the Cycle of Change (see chart); a participatory, strategic planning and community organising model; driven by an on-going process of analysis, planning, implementation and evaluation.



Cycle of Change:

Year 1

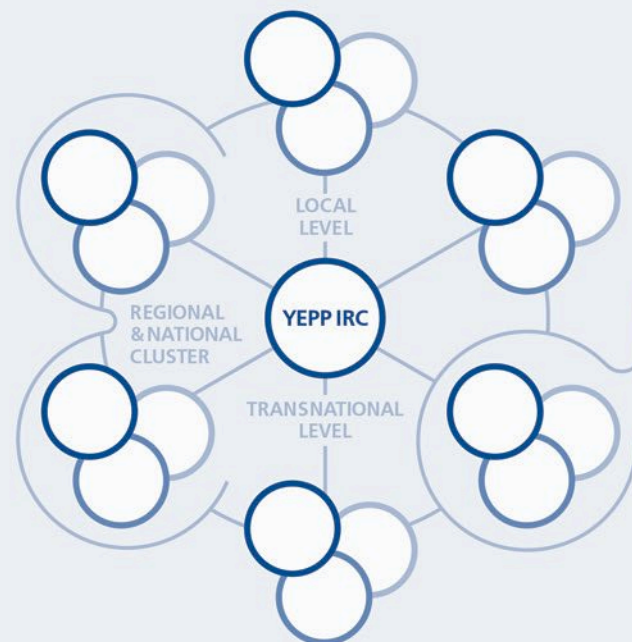
YEPP Multi-Level Approach

“YEPP” follows a multi-level approach working at local, regional, national and international levels.

At the local level, the “YEPP” approach and methodology is currently being implemented in communities based in areas that have few opportunities across seven European countries.

Regional or national clusters allow individual communities to learn from each other and to effect policy changes at the local level.

At international level, YEPP IRC acts as a hub for local communities and provides a platform for mutual exchange and learning within the YEPP Community Network.



YEPP IRC

The YEPP International Resource Centre (YEPP IRC) is a mission-oriented service provider. It acts as the central support agency for local communities who are implementing or who plan to implement the “YEPP” approach and methodology. YEPP IRC is committed to achieving youth and community empowerment and to building an active civil society which includes local stakeholders, especially young people, so that they can bring about sustainable change in their local communities.

YEPP IRC Goals

- To empower youth at risk of social exclusion
- To create self-confident and competent communities
- To build strong and sustainable cross-sectorial partnerships between stakeholders at all levels
- To influence community-based policies and programmes and put them into action
- To provide opportunities for learning and self-development at all levels



YEPP IRC Can Provide You With ...

The Tried and Tested "YEPP" Approach

YEPP IRC provides the "YEPP" approach and methodology and shows you how to implement it in your community, addressing your specific local problems and issues. It also enables you to build local partnerships and strategies to bring about the changes you need. By working with YEPP IRC you gain access to the YEPP Concept of Change, multiple examples of best practice and to a series of services and networks of practitioners and researchers who can help you make a positive change in your community.

Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation

Evaluation is an integral part of the "YEPP" approach and methodology. This evaluation ensures that you are getting the most out of the "YEPP" approach and are using it to its full potential. Every community implementing "YEPP" has an Evaluation Facilitator who is trained in the Participatory YEPP Monitoring and Evaluation concept (PYME). The Evaluation Facilitator is also fully supported by the YEPP IRC Team through face-to-face consultations, e-Learning tools and webinars.

Coaching and Site Visits

Regular site visits are also part of the support provided by the YEPP IRC Team and are particularly frequent in the first year of a community's full implementation of the "YEPP" approach and methodology. A two-day Interim Site Visit takes place three months after the Introduction Workshop. A two-day Evaluation Site Visit takes place at the end of the first year. During these visits, the YEPP IRC Team works with local stakeholders on strengthening youth empowerment, building partnerships with both the public and private sector and helping you to develop policy recommendations to decision-makers.

Online support

YEPP IRC provides online support to ensure that communities achieve their goals of youth and community empowerment, partnership, advocacy and learning. YEPP IRC also acts as a platform for exchange of best practice and lessons learnt within and outside the YEPP Community Network. Through its e-learning programmes, such as webinars and video tutorials, its online surveys, youth-contests, and interactive website and social media features, YEPP IRC supports international networking, engages in the dissemination of results and regularly monitors local needs to develop tailor-made solutions. Most importantly, young people are given a voice and are empowered through these learning and exchange opportunities.

Manuals and Handbooks

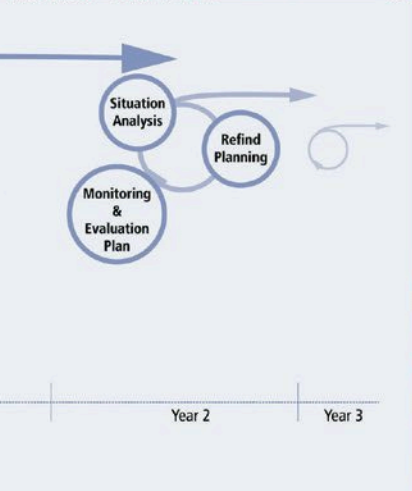
We provide you with a set of fully documented manuals and handbooks such as the YEPP Practitioners' Handbook, the Evaluation Facilitators' Manual, the Advocacy Strategies Manual as well as a scientific up-to-date account of the first 10 Years of YEPP published in the book *Youth and Community Empowerment in Europe – International Perspectives* by Peter Evans and Angelika Krüger. These are important tools to help you with the implementation of the "YEPP" approach and methodology as they feature a wide range of examples of best practice, an in-depth analysis of both internal and external evaluation of the "YEPP" approach and the lessons learnt from the first 10 Years of YEPP across Europe.

International Networking

As of January 2013, communities in seven different countries (Bosnia & Herzegovina, Finland, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Poland, Slovakia) are implementing the "YEPP" approach and methodology and new communities are constantly joining the YEPP Community Network. Being part of this network gives you the opportunity to attend our international events (e.g. workshops, youth meetings, conferences), to find partners for joint applications to access European funds and to benefit from our extensive database of best practice and our network of experts in youth and community empowerment.

Training and Consultancy for Communities outside the YEPP Network

As well as training you in the "YEPP" approach and methodology, the YEPP IRC Team also organises training and coaching in fields such as Media for Active Citizenship and Social Inclusion, Advocacy and Entrepreneurship. These training and consultancy services are tailor-made and adapted to your needs, objectives and your current situation.





How Can YEPP IRC support you?

Do you ...

- support youth empowerment and want to facilitate opportunities for young people to make their voices heard and to participate actively in decision-making processes?
- want to bring about positive change in communities with few opportunities and to support the self-confidence and competences of its citizens?
- want to influence community-based policies and programmes and put them into action?
- strive to offer opportunities for learning and self-development for community members, in particular young people at risk of social exclusion?
- support partnership building between stakeholders from the public, private and independent sector so that together you can reach common goals and develop your community more effectively?

Are you interested in ...

- gaining access to a broad range of best-practice examples in the field of youth and community empowerment?
- benefiting from opportunities of systematic exchange of experience, knowledge and expertise at international events run by the YEPP Community Network?
- getting more leverage for your organisation by joining forces to influence policy agendas at various levels?
- widening exposure for your organisation and programmes within a growing dynamic network?

> Then join us in working towards youth and community empowerment and sustainable change!

How Can We Work Together?

We support communities and individuals who want to work towards youth and community empowerment and lasting positive change. To do this we need your help.

- > You can help us to support people to change their lives and their communities.
- > You can help to provide opportunities for young people to gain valuable life-skills and boost their confidence.

Our partners get involved in various ways. The Charles Stewart Mott Foundation (USA), Compagnia di San Paolo (Italy) and Barrow Cadbury Trust (UK) have been supporting YEPP IRC and the YEPP Community Network with a start-up grant.

Compagnia di San Paolo directly supports 10 communities in Italy. The ERSTE Foundation (Austria) directly supports 5 communities in Slovakia working on Roma inclusion.

Other organisations, including NGOs, municipalities and private companies use YEPP IRC's training and consultancy services in the fields of the YEPP Concept of Change, Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation, Media Work, Entrepreneurship or Advocacy.

- > You can help to achieve a positive and lasting change in your local community!

For more information on partnerships and collaboration, please contact:

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Find out More

For more information about joining and supporting YEPP please visit :
www.yepp-community.org

or contact the YEPP IRC Team at
yepirc@yepirc.org