

“Participation of Young People in Youth Information Work”

Vienna, 20-23 April 2005

European Seminar, organised jointly by ERYICA, Eurodesk and EYCA,
in the framework of the Austrian Presidency of the European Union

<p>DESCRIPTION OF INITIATIVE OR PROJECT INVOLVING YOUNG PEOPLE DIRECTLY IN AN ASPECT OF YOUTH INFORMATION WORK included in Compendium of Projects prepared for the European Seminar</p>
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Ref: **06-57**

Organisation: **Canllaw Online**

European Affiliation: **ERYICA + EYCA**

1. **Name of Initiative** (project, activity, service or product):

57 - U.K. - WALES: “Being young and...”

2. **Description of Initiative or Project:**

The overall aim of this project is to engage with young people across Wales and to facilitate their self-expression on issues of interest and concern to them, via multi-media technologies – the end result being a series of Digital Stories.

The objectives of the project are:

- ? To ensure the project is underpinned by Youth Work principles, methodologies and practice
- ? To engage a Youth Work qualified multi-media facilitator to work with groups and individual young people drawn from the voluntary and statutory youth sector in Wales in order to develop the young people’s skills in self expression and participation through multi-media
- ? To engage with a minimum of 15 groups of young people (minimum of 100 individual young people) a year over a three-year period. Groups will be recruited and selected to reflect the diverse range of youth work organisations across Wales.
- ? To engage with the organisations from which the young people are drawn to explore special interest topics and issues of relevance to young people – eg:

- Being young and being me
- Being a young carer
- Being young and bullied
- Being young and disabled
- Being young and from an ethnic minority group
- Being young and a parent
- Being a young volunteer
- Being a young trainee
- Being young in a rural area
- Being young in an urban area
- Being a young traveller
- Being young and homeless
- Being young and alone
- Being young and self harming

- ? To use a holistic approach in working with young people on the issues/topics of interest. Each group of young people will be supported within an information context based on the Canllaw Info Index: 1) Education, 2) Employment and Training, 3) Environment, 4) World, Europe, UK and Wales, 5) Family and Relationships, 6) Health, 7) Housing, 8) Law and Rights, 9) Money, 10) Sport and Leisure. Young people will be helped to construct their views for self expression through access to quality information supported by high quality youth work methodologies and engagement techniques. The project will be young person centred where all opportunities for young people will be educative, empowering, participative and expressive, all underpinned by a commitment to equality of opportunity. The project will operated bilingually in English and Welsh and where appropriate other languages.
- ? To engage a range of partner organisations in the project to bring added value into the initiative. Contact has already been made with a college in Wrexham for the potential for young people's skills to be accredited, e.g. digital story telling at OCN levels 1-3 and possibly NVQ level 2 equivalent.

The project will be supported by the work already having been achieved and taking place by Canllaw Online on information initiatives such as the Wise 1,520 services and products and the large-scale CREDU initiative funded by ERDF money in the Objective One areas of Wales. The 82 digilabs in these areas will offer the groups to be identified the infrastructure to accommodate the project. There are also locations outside of the Objective One area where the groups can possibly be hosted, e.g. Wrexham Victoria Youth Centre etc. Through these centres, the identified groups of young people will have access to video and digital cameras, video and music editing software as well as the necessary training needed for up-skilling.

The views of the young people will be collated into sophisticated presentations on the issue and where appropriate, will be made more widely available, e.g. through the Canllaw Online and partner websites, etc. At the end of the project the full range of issues covered will be presented to key policy-makers in Wales. By doing this young people will have presented their views in a vibrant "real" way that is accessible to the viewer and raised awareness to the issue of concern and provided digital content for wider groups of young people. It is envisaged that at least 50% of active participants will have attained least an OCN level 1 qualification. Due to the nature of the groups to be engaged and topics to be covered, accreditation is not at the forefront of this project but it will be possible to meet these targets.

This project is firmly embedded within Youth Work principles and practice. It supports Extending Entitlement by supporting young people to right to be consulted, to participate in decision-making, and to be heard on all matters which concern them or have an impact on their lives. They will explore and comment on issues of particular relevance to them and the outcome of this will be disseminated to wider groups of young people and decision-makers where appropriate. It provides the active participants with experience to develop talents, broaden horizons and promote rounded perspectives including both national and international contexts. For the active participants it will provide recreational and social opportunities for likeminded young people in safe and accessible environments. Through the media to be created by the active participants, larger cohorts of young people will have access to personal support and advice on the issues to be explored as each topic in its final presentation will also draw reference to specialist agencies that provide information and support on the issue.

The project is about widening awareness of the topics to be included and encourages opportunities for young people to participate, volunteer and become better active citizens. Active participants within the project will learn experientially a range of basic and more advanced communication skills, thus building their confidence and self-esteem, thus enabling them to meet their individual potentials. By the very nature of the project social inclusion is promoted.

The project supports Better Wales in its aspirations for young people and Future Skills Wales by enabling young people to have access to opportunities to enhance their communication and Information and Communication Technology (ICT) skills.

3. Form of Youth Participation in Youth Information Addressed by This Initiative:

This is:

- a) An initiative or project that **involves young people directly in the identification of the information needs of young people in their locality or field of interest**
- b) An initiative or project that **involves young people directly in the designing and preparation of information magazines and materials** (for a young public)
- c) An initiative or project that **involves young people directly in informing or advising other young people**
- d) An initiative or project that **involves young people directly in managing or evaluating youth information centres or other services** (such as a youth card)
- e) An initiative or project that addresses **another aspect of youth participation in youth information work** (please specify the aspect):

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4. Name and Address of Organisation Responsible for This Initiative:

Name: Canllaw Online Cyf
Address: Unit 5, The Octagon, Caerphilly Business Park, Van Road, Caerphilly, CF83 3ED, Wales, UK.

5. Name and E-mail Address of Person to Contact (for information about this initiative):

Name: Lynne Thomas
E-mail Address: lynnethomas@canllaw-online.com

6. Who Participated in This Initiative ?

Project managed by Lynne Thomas (Canllaw Online) – Project delivered by Canllaw Online Project Officer Gary Bevan – involving over 15 young people so far.

7. What Was the Scope of This Initiative?

(please click on / activate the box which corresponds to your answer)

Local Regional National European

