

# REBOOT



## Youth Advisory Board

Experiences and Lessons learnt



## Partners

**CESIE** | [www.cesie.org](http://www.cesie.org)

**KMOP** | [www.kmop.gr](http://www.kmop.gr)

**"Hope For Children" CRC Policy Center** | [uncrcpc.org.cy](http://uncrcpc.org.cy)

**Fondazione Hallgarten-Franchetti Centro Studi Villa Montesca** | [www.montesca.eu](http://www.montesca.eu)

**ZRS Koper** | [www.zrs-kp.si](http://www.zrs-kp.si)

**Animus Association Foundation** | [www.animusassociation.org](http://www.animusassociation.org)

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# 1. Introduction

The "Youth Advisory Board – Experiences and Lessons Learnt" report has been developed in the framework of the **"REBOOT NOW – Prevention of Gender-Based Violence in Schools after Lockdown"**, project no.101049567 and co-funded by the CERV programme of the European Commission, which aims at raising awareness on teen-dating violence and on the needs of young people to be psychologically supported at school.

The project consortium consists of an international partnership, namely:

**CESIE** (Italy),

**KMOP – Social Action and Innovation Centre** (Greece),

**HFC Hope For Children CRC Policy Center** (Cyprus),

**Znanstveno-raziskovalno središče Koper** (Slovenia),

**Animus Association Foundation** (Bulgaria)

**Fondazione Hallgarten Franchetti Centro Studi Villa Montesca** (Italy).



**REBOOT NOW** project was designed to address the emerging challenges encountered by young people during and after the **Covid-19 pandemic**, especially regarding their well-being, mental health, and safety in general, but particularly their increased exposure to gender-based violence (GBV) and the foreseeable difficulty to create safe/healthy relationships and access psychological support services. **More specifically, REBOOT NOW aims to:**

**Support** the recovery of young people from difficulties that have arisen from measures against the Covid-19 pandemic; in particular, through positive actions that support wellbeing, mental health and capacity of young people for building up healthy relationships.

**Prevent and detect** gender-based violence among young people (age 10 -14 years) through targeted psychological support actions and educational activities at schools.

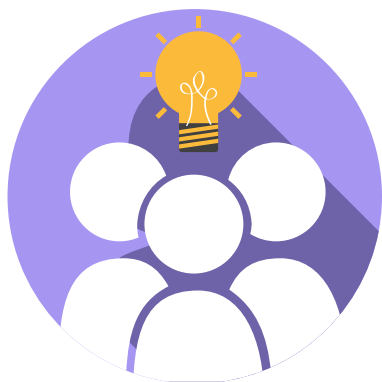
**Create** a network with teachers, school professionals and families aimed at supporting children.

To reach its goals, during the school year 2022/2023 the project designed and implemented psycho-pedagogical **itinerant counselling desks** at schools, in the 5 countries where the project's partner organisations are located (Italy, Slovenia, Greece, Cyprus and Bulgaria). More in details, REBOOT NOW activities included:



An **itinerant school counselling desk for children and families**, as a result of the cooperation between schools and stakeholders, to concretely support well-being and healthy relationships of children;

An **online platform**, [www.thegendertalk.eu](http://www.thegendertalk.eu), collecting existing information and training materials for adults (school staff and families) and children, and serving as an online access point to the counselling desks;



**Peer-supported events, workshops and festivals** to inform, raise awareness and empower students (aged 10–14) in schools, with the active engagement of older peers (aged 15–18) as co-trainers.

All in all, REBOOT NOW's activities have managed to support the well-being, mental health and capacity of **+2000 young people** to build up healthy relationships through individual consultations, group activities and events; while fostering the capacity of **+200 schools and families' members** to prevent and identify at-risk cases of teen-dating violence. The whole experience of the itinerant counselling desks has been told in a **Lessons Learnt and Policy Recommendations report**, available [at this link](#).

While in this report, we present the experience of the establishment of the REBOOT NOW "**Youth Advisory Boards**", being groups of young people aged 15–18 years old, that throughout the implementation of the project have helped the 6 local teams in different ways, mainly bringing to the table an invaluable insight on children's matters. In the next sections, we will detail what a Youth Advisory Board is, how they work and what we have learned from this experience. Particularly, the reason for creating a similar report is to allow us, as a partnership, to learn for the future from the valuable lessons we experienced over the last 2 years by formalizing a clear system for documenting insights and encourage improvement in best practices; promoting collaboration and teamwork among the different parts involved; leveraging wins and driving process changes. But above all, we are convinced that the practice of relying on youth by giving them the responsibility to offer their views and opinions to adults on the way to conduct projects for their peers should be a common spread practice!

In fact, this document is addressed to the general public and everyone, being young or not, as school staff members, youth workers, member of organisations working with youth or other, who wants to repeat our YAB experience, allowing young people to be heard and consulted in all the matters that touch upon them directly or indirectly.

## 2. Youth Advisory Board

### 2.1 The rationale – Ensuring Children Participation

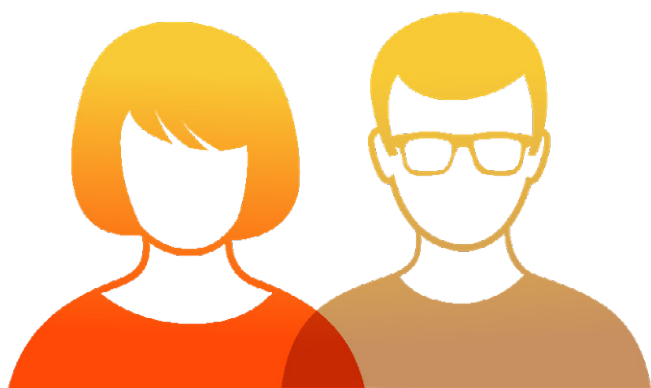
The practice of actively involving a "target group" such as young people at project management level relies on many different theoretical aspects, including a methodology defined as a **child-centered approach** – which should not be confused with a child-friendly approach! While the latter mainly designates any activity, policy or measure that aims to deal with children in a respectful manner, regardless of their gender, protecting from abuse or violence, so that children feel safe, encouraged and generally happy; the former put children as main agents of their lives: a child-centered approach encourages children to develop together and individually **their own solutions** to problems given, encouraging cooperation, development of life skills and capacities, by shifting the focus from the dominant adult-centric perspective on child experiences, to 'putting the children first' (Bhana, 2016), in taking children as experts of their own lives, skilful communicators, right-holders and meaning-makers (Clark and Moss, 2005), as well as in seeing them as actors, able to speak for themselves (Fattore, Mason and Watson, 2007). In other words, a child-centric approach seeks to reduce common-sense adult-centred explanations in order to facilitate childhood agency in various fields (Thorne, 1993) and challenges the dominant discourse about whose knowledge counts (Clark and Moss, 2011).

"Some adults think that their opinion is the one that is correct, and they don't listen nor respect what we are saying."

Children's focus group, Portugal.  
Our Europe, Our Rights, Our Future<sup>1</sup>

Furthermore, ensuring a **meaningful youth participation** is a core value of all rights-based programmes for young people, that should be always mainstreamed within organisations that deliver programmes and services for young people, as it has been highly demonstrated that the "winning" process of empowering young people is not only beneficial for young people themselves (gaining knowledge, understanding, skills and social networks), but also for organisations, in terms of achieving programme objectives more effectively; bringing about social change; making a positive impact on adults who work with young people, and positive effects on organisational capacities to provide youth-sensitive interventions.

<sup>1</sup> <https://eurochild.org/resource/our-europe-our-rights-our-future/>





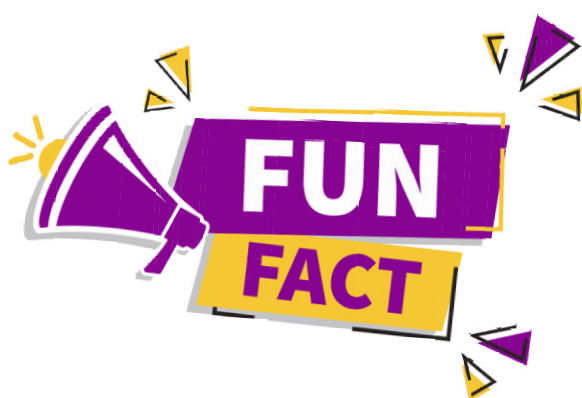
The topic of children participation is more and more discussed at political and policy level: firstly by [Article 12 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child](#), but also [article 24 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU](#) affirms the rights of children to express their views freely, and for those views to be taken into consideration on matters which concern them, as well as the [EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child](#). Moreover, in recent years many initiatives have been taken at European level to ensure that children's voices are actually heard, such as the creation of the [EU Children Participation Platform](#).

Despite these institutional efforts, what happens very often in our society is that children still remain 'silenced' and often excluded from the decisions which shape their lives, with the rationale that they are too vulnerable to express their rights and voice their opinions, and that we, as adults, have to act on their behalf. As European organisations working in the field of education, we are convinced, on the contrary, of the need to **engage young people** in all the issues that affect them personally and on their best interest, as their views are important and need to be more effectively integrated in the design of research about issues important to them, the development of services delivered to them, and the policy impacting their lives (Horgan 2017). Therefore, to align with the most prominent and recent EU strategies on the matter, and applying the Lundy model of child participation (Lundi, 2017), which foresee to give young people **space, voice, audience and influence** the REBOOT NOW project established national **Young Advisory Boards**, made of young people that not only speak directly about their experiences but rather, acting as "experts of their own lives", reflect on the experiences of other children in general and represent their peers in this process, and on the other hand are actively involved in the activities as members of the project teams.



Figure 1 Lundy's Model of Participation as included in Ireland's National Strategy on Children and Young People's Participation in Decision-Making 2015–2023

All along the project, such approach ensured its quality and credibility, allowing the partnership to identify children's potential as a participative and co-reflexive activity between project team and children, which could minimise social and generational distance while making ethics central to the project's design and implementation. However, it has to be mentioned that this invaluable work of young people was starting even before the REBOOT NOW project's start, and marked its story: in fact, the origin of the Youth Advisory Boards has been first experimented by CESIE's team within the **Children First** project, another EU-funded project running from 2019 to 2021 and aimed at raising awareness on the prevention of teen dating violence from the bottom-up, by giving voices to young people themselves as directly addressed by this form of gender-based violence (GBV). This fruitful and empowering experience, in which groups of young people from the UK, Italy, Lithuania, Greece and Cyprus were meeting in order to discuss about the ways in which GBV touches also children and adolescents, to collect data of its impact among their peers and to create awareness-raising campaigns on the topic, was however impacted by the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic: since March 2020, such adolescents started to experience school disruption and isolation, being unable to continue their daily routine made of classes, extracurricular activities, and participation to projects such as ours. At that time, understanding very soon that initiatives like ours were more useful than ever in those times because, as several researches were demonstrating some months later, children were unproportionally hit by the pandemic compared to other age groups receiving less services and attention for their recovery, the project's partnership tried to be incredibly creative in drafting new solutions to continue to meet the young consultants.



Actually what happened while continuing the Children First YAB's activities online went even further: **the idea of – finally! – focusing on children's mental health and psychological wellbeing was emerging by the beginning of 2021 from one of that online meetings among the YAB reuniting in Palermo!**

We can then affirm that the Youth Advisory Board is not just a funding body of the project, but actually its main creators and a concrete example of what can happen when we ask children to participate.

## 2.2 6 Youth Advisory Boards

In its REBOOT NOW's version, the YABs were created starting from March 2022 in each of the project's organisations territories:



Each YAB counts on a **minimum of 3 people**, which were selected based on their **motivation**, then attended a **local introductory training** aimed at defining actions and scope of the project's activities. From that moment on, each YAB was regularly consulted, mainly on a monthly basis, to carry out the following activities:



## WHAT and WHY

**Involvement in the evaluation of the impact of the project**, to assess whether the project is working and how and how to improve it.

**Supporting in the design of the online platform [www.thegendertalk.eu](http://www.thegendertalk.eu)**, serving to collect useful training materials for adults and young people + as an online access point to the psychological help desk.

Support in the organization of public events such as the **Launch of the itinerant psychological counselling desk** (fall 2022) and the **Wellbeing Festivals** (spring 2023), being one-day events in the participating schools with various workshops on topics such as gender equality, relationships, emotional well-being.

Support in the creation of an **online awareness-raising campaign** addressed to young people at European level on gender-based prevention and psychological wellbeing

## HOW

- Participating in crucial meetings of project management (online and f2f).
- Learning to use monitoring, evaluation, accountability and learning (MEAL) tools.

- Child-friendly focus groups at local level to co-design the platform;
- One transnational meeting on how to improve it, in Athens, in December 2022.
- National piloting workshops to see if the website is organised nicely and if it is easy to understand and use.

- Preparing the events' logistic, promotion and contents.
- Facilitating sessions, together with the local teams of service providers.

- Co-organising and facilitating Co-Creation Workshops for students of the schools involved
- Planning local activities to disseminate the campaign's materials and main messages of the campaign.

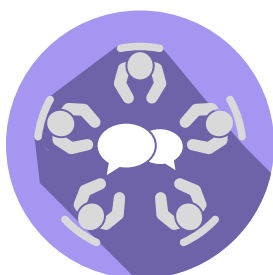
## MAIN RESULTS



2 trips to Athens and Brussels for some of the YAB members – of which, one at the EU Parliament in Brussels, in which they advocated for a major attention by the EU on children mental health and prevention on teen dating violence!



Several face-to-face and on-line meetings participated, at national and transnational level, to express their views and opinions;



Several facilitations of workshops and events to become a bridge among younger children and the project's teams.



Tons of soft skills developed



**A lot of fun!**

This list of activities is actually not exhaustive, as the YAB were active more broadly, for many other activities connected to child participation, peer empowerment and awareness-raising, every time a good occasion was proposed by their proposing organisation.

In **Palermo, Italy, CESIE** promoted the creation of the YAB as a continuation of the work done within the previous Children First, complementing the recruitment through an open call, and reached an initial team of 7 young people (4 girls, 2 boys and 1 non-binary person) between 15 and 19 years of age attending different schools in Palermo, or recently graduated, in May 2022. Then, over the course of the project, new people were coming in while others were leaving, while the team was still meeting on a monthly basis. In many occasions, the YAB was "consulted" for issues not related to the REBOOT NOW project (for instance, they participated in focus groups led by CESIE under other projects on the topic of LGBTQIA+ youth mental health, brainstormed ideas for new projects' proposals design, and revised a full curriculum of Comprehensive Sexuality Education addressed to youth) and at the same time additional learning opportunities were opening up to them (at least in 3 occasions, members of the YAB were invited to take part in European youth exchanges abroad). The success of the experience is so radicated as a "best practice" that CESIE 1) is participating in the EU Child Participation Platform; 2) plans to maintain the YAB active aside from the REBOOT NOW project.



In **Athens, Greece KMOP** established the YAB through different means, mixing open calls and networks, starting from 7 young people (4 girls, 3 boys) at the "training" stage, while 2 more people joined later. Facilitating regular communication, we maintained a social media group for interaction among YAB members, ensuring ongoing collaboration and coordination. Furthermore, we made it a priority to meet in person at least once a month. These face-to-face gatherings were essential for building strong relationships, exchanging ideas, and discussing regarding the REBOOT NOW project. Engaging actively with YAB members, we organised different activities aimed at fostering dialogue, awareness, and action on critical social issues. Our discussions and activities delved deep into topics such as gender-based violence (GBV), gender equality, diversity, inclusion, mental health, and empathy, reflecting our commitment to promoting gender justice and empowerment.

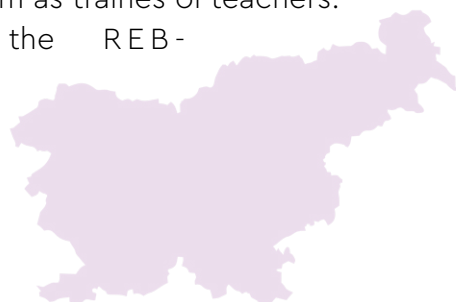
Additionally, we participated in an intergenerational festival. Taking to the streets of Athens, we searched for visual representations of our core themes, scouring the city for posters, graffiti, and other visual media that shed light on gender, body image, and related subjects. Furthermore, we facilitated sessions about "what we don't discuss at schools," providing an environment for conversation and critical reflection. Finally one of the most important activities was that the YAB members conducted research among their peers, investigating perceptions and experiences related to gender-based violence and empathy, thereby deepening their understanding and informing our collective efforts.





In **Nicosia, Cyprus**, the recruitment of the YAB members was done through an email inviting the young ambassadors who were already collaborating with the organisation to participate in the REBOOT NOW project. Initially, 9 individuals (7 girls, 2 boys) between 15–18 years of age, from different socioeconomic background and educational level, were recruited for the YAB. However, due to the high demands of the school curriculum for high school students, in the end, only 3 agreed to join the Youth Advisory Board. During the first phase of the project, HFC staff members met with the young ambassadors on a regular basis and discussed topics related to the project. One of the YAB members participated in the face-to-face meeting in Athens, where she had the chance to interact and exchange ideas with other YAB members from partner countries. As the young ambassadors initially trained in the framework of the project were final-year high school students, they moved abroad to go to university, and HFC proceeded with the engagement of 7 (3 girls, 3 boys, 1 other) new YAB members in the beginning of the 2023–24 school year. The new YAB members participated in the EU-wide social media awareness raising campaign as well as related workshops. These students found the project and the topics discussed very interesting, especially as there is a lack of discussion about the topics in local schools in Cyprus. The discussions held during various meetings with the young ambassadors were very fruitful as these occasions gave them the opportunity to express their thoughts and made them want to be more engaged in the future as well.

In **Ljubljana, Slovenia, ZRS KOPER** recruited the YAB in partnership with "No excuse: Brez Izgovora", which is one of the leading national NGOs working with youth in the country, 5 members (2 girls and 3 boys) have been trained and then 4 were active throughout the project (1 girl and 3 boys). During the first year of the project YAB meetings were held on a monthly basis, since the amount of activities were also bigger, then in the second year the meetings were reduced accordingly to the activities. Two YAB members were participating at the F2F meeting in Athens, which was very good experience, at the final event in Brussels one YAB member was present. According to YAB members' feedback they enjoyed the most at the preparation of wellbeing festivals. Within this their favourite task was training the teachers for implementation of wellbeing festival activities. Namely, we engaged them as trainees of teachers. After this successful experience with the YAB involved in the REBOOT NOW project, we intend to implement such a consultation body also in other future projects, not only to allow children's voices and opinions to be heard, but also because we believe that such an engagement is very valuable experience for them.







In **Sofia, Bulgaria, Animus** recruited 14 young people, of whom 12 females and 2 male participants, between the ages of 16–19. Most young members were from the three schools in which the itinerant counseling desk was working, however two participants were from external schools. Naturally, over time some people discontinued their participation, but others joined in. Overall, there were 6 young people who remained part of the Youth Advisory Board throughout the entire project and were attending meetings regularly. All meetings were held in person, in the office of Animus Association Foundation. Meetings were scheduled at least once a month and up to three times around the organization of large-scale tasks/events (i.e. Online platform co-creation, Wellbeing festival, St. Valentine's day, Online GBV campaign). Over time, YAB members became more engaged and proactive, providing useful feedback, suggesting ideas and taking initiatives beyond project's planned activities. Their involvement in the project proved to be extremely significant and productive in terms of : a) scope of young people reached, b) optimisation of the counseling service and online booking system (e.g. bookings, service promotion, providing information), c) informing and engaging young people on various topics and activities (e.g. GBV, mental health, services, community resources, critical thinking, fake news), using more interactive and youth-led approach.

In **Città di Castello, Italy, Villa Montesca** worked in close partnership with the Upper Tiber Valley Educating Community, a formal association gathering together all school directors, teachers, educators of the territory plus associations, institutions and all the other subjects that play a role in the psycho-physical development of children and youngsters of which FVM is member and first promoter, for recruiting their YAB. The initial team was made of 6 participants (4 girls, 2 boys), but after further spreading the word and sharing YAB experiences with other students, this YAB now counts with other 20 people and is acting with a "senior group" (aged 22 years old) and a junior one (10–19 years old). Alongside the REBOOT NOW project's activities carried out together with the YAB members and the application of the MEAL Strategy, one of our local senior YAB member participated also to an external event (5th May 2023, Perugia) entitled "YOUTH AND ADOLESCENT DISCOMFORT AFTER THE COVID" and organized under the patronage of the Umbria Region and in collaboration with the Regional Council of the Order of Social Workers of Umbria. Our YAB senior member reported that, starting from the experience of REBOOT NOW, the young people of the Upper Tiber Valley were able to organize themselves as an informal dialogue group with the Educational Community. He illustrated the ultimate goal of the YAB experience, to bring children to the centre of the educating community's vision, freeing them from the role of "beneficiaries" and progressively widening their sphere of responsibility and autonomy in the analysis of the needs that concern them directly, in the construction of the research paths-action that see them protagonists and in the activities of monitoring and evaluation of the impact of the paths







### 3. YABs Lessons Learnt

The practice of collecting "Lessons learnt" is a collaborative technique that allows communities to analyse their projects, to identify their strengths and areas for improvement and to learn from past projects and its positive features, while ensuring that the negative sides will not be repeated in the future. The following table sum up the results of a consultation implemented with the YAB, at local level but also at transnational one (during the trip to Brussels in January 2024), asking them to express the most positive aspects of the YAB experience, as well as the areas of improvement.



## Tasks

### WHAT WORKED WELL

The tasks on which the YABs would have worked on were clear since the beginning, and were effectively completed within the project timeframe.

YABs highly enjoyed their primary task to have a primary word on the design and preparation of the activities to be carried out in schools.

Tasks were designed to give YABs a “bridge” function professionals and younger groups from the schools involved, allowing them to feel more comfortable with the project’s activities;

The collaboration among different YABs on how to conduct tasks, suggesting methods and approaches to reach the target group;

The tasks were clear as to what was expected from the YAB members in the phases of the project.

### WHAT COULD BE IMPROVED

Assigning precise and fixed roles to the different YAB local members.

Higher planning of activities to allow local teams to fully benefit from the YAB support, since the very beginning of the project.

Additional brainstorming moments to improve the already agreed activities.

Encourage YAB members to be more proactive and organize events that are outside the main tasks.

Being more open into sharing their opinions as to how the task could have been improved or how the result could be achieved in a better way.

## Communication

### WHAT WORKED WELL

Communication was good, both among the local YAB members and with their coordinator from the partners' organisations, always clear and punctual, and organised through messaging platforms such as Whatsapp, Viber or Telegram, and through the organisation of f2f or online meetings.

Same at transnational level among the different groups, mainly managed by the local coordinators but also through direct exchange platforms, such as an Instagram group created after the first f2f meeting in Athens, in December 2022.

Procedure of communicating and discussing was very useful and smooth as they were able to exchange thoughts and ideas both in person and at the online meetings.

### WHAT COULD BE IMPROVED

Enhanced communication to anticipate the planning of specific activities, to ensure smoother organisation, especially to avoid overlapping with curricular activities students are involved in.

Ensure enough face to face meetings among YABs on a local level in order to improve communication among members and keep them engaged with the project.

Promote channels of communication also among YAB members alone, without their coordinators, to enhance a peer-leading approach.

One challenge faced was that the discussions were a bit more brief in some activities of the project, so there could be more time allocated to be able to delve more deeply into the topics.

## Atmosphere

### WHAT WORKED WELL

Atmosphere was great! At the local level, among members of the local YAB and their coordinators, as well as at the transnational one, YAB members felt connected to each other.

YABs creation was a new and unique experience, on which YAB members were not used to: this caused some shyness at the beginning, overcome overtime.

### WHAT COULD BE IMPROVED

Well designed introductory meetings, to ensure smooth and gradual socialization.

Some ice-breaking activities could help in more engagement of the new YAB members.

## Participation

### WHAT WORKED WELL

The YAB groups were participated, at local and transnational level, mainly thanks to the interactive, educational, and motivational activities proposed.

YAB members felt heard throughout the procedure, and worked towards the inclusion of everybody.

Through them, higher participation to the project's activities by younger children was ensured.

### WHAT COULD BE IMPROVED

Improved strategies to overcome barriers to participation such as limited flexibility of timing and availability.

Encourage YAB members to create and maintain social media accounts of the project and disseminate information about various issues through it (as well as educational materials, online campaigns, scheduled events).

## Exchange

### WHAT WORKED WELL

YABs worked as a platform of exchange themselves.

Their exchanges were always fun and engaging, especially the ones in presence.

### WHAT COULD BE IMPROVED

More opportunities for interactions and exchanges with YABs from other countries/activities. Online meetings only between YAB members from different countries to brainstorm and discuss ideas.

Allowing the participation of all YAB members in the international events.





## Impact

### WHAT WORKED WELL

YABs felt to have an high impact on the creation of child-friendly online contents, both on social media and on the website [www.thegendertalk.eu](http://www.thegendertalk.eu), and on fastening the creation of a safe and friendly space in the involved schools.

The experience itself was reported as a very impactful one for their own lives, as many stated in front of the EU Parliament, during the project's Final Conference in Brussels.

In particular, the research they made in schools on the status of their peers' mental health and prevalence of GBV was particularly relevant and surprising, helping them to understand not only how to better structure the actions, but also a different perspective on their world.

### WHAT COULD BE IMPROVED

Enhanced integration of local YABs in the ideation of workshops and events.

Improvement of systemic barriers avoiding YABs to impact more, such as the limited extra-curricular time young people have.

Greater room for action, allowing YAB to lead their own activities in the schools involved.

Harness social media to do this, as it is accessible to most young people and can be easily used to spread messages about gender equality and eradicating GBV. This could influence people to think about their actions more and be more respectful to others.

## Expectations

### WHAT WORKED WELL

Expectations were met especially in terms of learning new things, living new experiences and meeting new people.

### WHAT COULD BE IMPROVED

Clearer picture on what comes next, after the end of the project, to meet YABs' expectations to continue their activity, and to value the realized ones through second editions (e.g. the Wellbeing Festivals).

## 4. Checklist on the creation of a YAB

Creating a **Youth Advisory Board** means that you, as an organisation, group or collective of people, want to work for mainstreaming meaningful youth participation, by structurally integrating this process at all levels and phases of the project, programme or services you propose: maybe you already work with young people offering them a set of services or programs, but you would do more for involving them to provide more strategic input, and move towards a more fully-fledged youth-centred approach.

Below we are listing the most common strategies that we can advise you for evolving young people more actively:



### **Mainstreaming meaningful youth participation**

This means involving young people in all layers of decision-making, research, design, planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of your initiative (for instance, through structural youth representation in governance, policies etc.)



### **Building positive youth-adult partnerships**

This means to create more spaces for youth-adult partnerships, striving to share power and democratic values in an equal way.



### **Capacity building and youth leadership**

This means to create more opportunities for young people to be trained, building their capacities including fostering their confidence, skills, knowledge and critical (self-) reflection; as well as training on leadership and decision-making (i.e. mentorship programmes, peer support activities, set of workshops and camps etc.)



### **Support and strengthen youth movements**

This means to support young people in their own mobilisations, actions, spaces and activities (ie. in advocacy, awareness-raising actions, more strategic partnerships etc.)



Whatever form you would decide to pursue,  
these are the most important elements to follow:



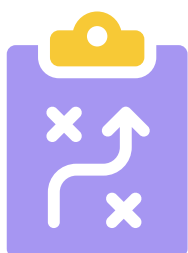
**Assess your own organisation:** what is the status of youth involvement?



**Build the capacity of people around you, including adults:** are you, as organisation members, all on the same page on the topic of youth involvement?



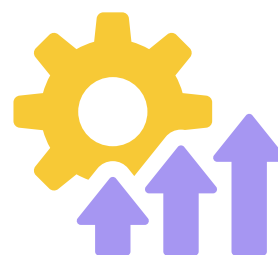
**Start selecting young people** to be involve in the actions you plan



**Co-design with them a plan** for ongoing support on your activities, thus officially launching your YAB



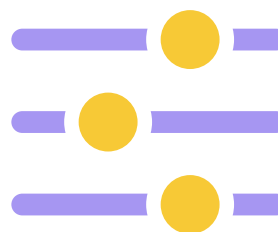
**Provide mentorship, training and capacity building** for young people to enable them to implement the plan overtime.



**Continuously consider all the opportunities** you can offer to them for this growth, aside from the plan.



**Monitor the process of youth involvement,** creating spaces for applying adjustments if needed.



**Evaluate your experience** and write down your own Lessons Learnt.

## 5. Conclusions

In conclusion, we can say that from our experience, the practise of creating Youth Advisory Boards is a powerful and useful tool to ensure that children participate in society, and particularly in all activities, projects or programmes designed for their growth and development. It wasn't only useful in terms of guidance for the REBOOT NOW partnership for the project implementation, but it proved valuable for young people to take the space and time for themselves to think about their wishes and needs. Through this document, we hope that other people, being young or not, as school staff members, youth workers, member of organisations working with youth or other, will repeat our YAB experience, allowing additional young people to be heard and consulted in all the matters that touch upon them directly or indirectly.





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