***CALL FOR NATIONAL STAKEHOLDERS***

**Deadline: 30/11/2013, 12h CET**

Pan-European database of the Project “Certification of the Qualifications of the Youth Workers in NGOs – road to greater recognition of the Youth Work”

**Preamble**

“Certification of the Qualifications of the Youth Workers in NGOs – road to greater recognition of the Youth Work” is a Project with national and European dimension that aims to the development of a process of certification by using ECVET system as an instrument, which gives youth workers working in NGOs and other institutions the possibility of assessment and validation of the learning outcomes and recognition of qualifications across Europe, particularly those acquired through experience acquired at work in non-formal and informal contexts.[[1]](#footnote-1)

The suggested project will lead to the development of a competence profile with the necessary qualifications that youth workers should have, as well as the learning outcomes that they are supposed to achieve while working for an organization and in the sector in general.

The project website and e-learning platform will be developed with information and materials for all interested parties. A network of NGOs will be created and a business plan will finally be developed for use of different possibilities of commercialization of the European Certificate and methodologies developed.

***Pan-European Database/Network***

*The pan-European database is one of the outcomes that this project intends to have and it aims to* the development of a database and network consisting of contact details and basic information about youth Stakeholders throughout Europe, as well as youth workers so as to meet the demand and supply of work in all participating countries and beyond and to allow youth workers to find employment or volunteer work in case of a need to do so. Using this network and database as a trampoline it will enable the organizations in the future to work on advocacy for the recognition of qualification of youth workers and impact of youth work.

AEGEE-Europe as partner of this project responsible for the creation of the pan-European Database intends to provide a tool that gathers different stakeholders and best practices throughout Europe and that be a step forward on the advocacy process towards strongest recognition of competences and certification of qualifications of the youth worker creating new opportunities at the same time. This database/ network also pretend to be a positive answer on facing and improving the challenges of the field, such as:

* Ensure interest, collaboration and cooperation from a diverse of stakeholders in different EU countries (Belgium, Portugal, Italy, Poland and Greece);
* Create an online space to collect and centralize the expertise of different stakeholders working in the field of certification of qualifications of the youth worker;
* Build the ownership within the database in order to sustain the interest, common actions and future projects;

Deal with different approaches/points of view from different stakeholders in building advocacy strategy and action plans for greater recognition of youth workers competences and youth work in generally;

* Create a space/area that allows and encourages the exchange of information on volunteering programs and work positions for youth workers
* Fostering advocacy and lobby measures for the recognition of qualifications/competences of youth workers.

The stakeholders selected as members of the pan-European database will be working together with the partners of the project and youth workers on the development of the field and as a step forward in the recognition of the youth worker as a profession.

On the website of the project will be uploaded the database where anyone will be able to access to information about stakeholders, their expertise and background. In a private section of the website of the project will be a forum to fostering discussions related with youth work and certification of qualifications, to share opportunities and relevant information’s. The Database will be composed initially of a minimum of 25 stakeholders from the 5 EU countries involved in the project.

The present document will explain the implementation strategy, sustainability and follow-up of the pan-European database to the partners of the project.

***Objectives:***

* Create new opportunities for youth workers (professionals and volunteers)
* Gather expertise and knowledge related to Lifelong Learning Programme projects and stimulate the exchange of best practices among the members and across Europe in generally;
* Create the advocacy actions towards the recognition and promotion of competences/qualifications of the youth work/er stimulating the basic principles and needs of Lifelong Learning towards decision making processes;
* Create ways for joint work development among partners of the project and stakeholders involved in the database.
* Promote the recognition of qualifications gained from non-formal learning environments promoted and provided by youth work in Europe;
* Develop the exchange of best practice, networking and cooperation among the members;

***Criteria***

To be a member of the pan-European database, the organizations should reach the following criteria:

* Special focus in youth work and youth worker
* Having a National/European dimension (for organizations)
* Have background and experience in youth work development and recognition of competences/ qualifications
* Interest in being a member of the database/network
* Be an active member of this tool providing relevant information on the main topics of the project
* Believe in the basic principles of the recognition of the youth workers (as professionals and as volunteers)
* Be open to create new opportunities and sharing important information’s for youth workers in EU
* Participate in initiatives promoted by partners[[2]](#footnote-2)
* Be an active support for the advocacy process promoted by this project towards a recognition of the certification tool as well as the competences and qualifications of the youth worker (as a professional/volunteer)
* Promote the project and its tools at local level, through its different communication tools (website and Database)
* Be able to attend the first meeting of Belgium Stakeholders of the Pan-European Database in Brussels on the 13th of December 2013 (local and date to be confirmed).

**Sustainability of the Database & Follow-up**

The database has a long-term provision in the sense that should be a non-static tool online accessible to everyone.

We as partners responsible for the creation of such tool will make sure that this tool is in appropriate format online, will a complement to the initiatives on advocacy and visibility events of the project as well as the other way around, meaning that the events and initiatives could also be a relevant space to gather new references and information’s to be included in the database.

Within this idea we believe that in the future this tool could be a reference for connecting organizations, youth workers, stakeholders and key actors in the field to continue a strong work on the reinforcement of the youth work value.

The main goal of this tool is to match stakeholders and with youth workers throughout the European Union, including individuals that successfully passed the pilot process and who received a certificate so as to promote the certificate throughout Europe and allow for these individuals to receive the recognition they deserve, as well as find employment or volunteer work that interests them and is of their capabilities.

Within this idea for the database we believe that will be a step further on creating ways for advocacy on recognition of youth worker’s qualifications and the profession itself.

As a follow-up AEGEE-Europe and YEU together will organize some initiatives in Brussels inviting different actors and experts to foster the recognition of qualifications in the field through a structured dialogue system/structure in the future.

***What is expected from an individual or organization member of the database/network?***

As mentioned before the organizations selected as a member of the pan-European database will be working together on the development of the field and will contributing to moving a step forward on the recognition of the youth worker, non-formal education as a methodology and the youth work as the main provider of the news guarantees for volunteers and professionals actively involved on it.

More than having a name and information on a database we expect the stakeholders to be actively involved in promoting and participating in initiatives of the project (online – through the forum on the website/ presentially, etc.), taking part in different actions towards a strong recognition/certification of qualifications of the youth worker and be open to plan and implement actions together.

***How to become a Member?***

To become a member follow the procedure:

1. Check if the profile matches the criteria required;
2. Be committed to the objectives and principles of the tool;
3. Complete the application form until 30th of November/ 14:

<https://podio.com/webforms/6086644/474241>

1. For more information about the project please follow the link: <http://youth-workers.eu/> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. As a principle each organization should support its expenses to participate. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)