

# Measuring Human Rights in Youth Clubs

## Background

The idea for the project was first raised at ECYC's Chief Executive and President's network meeting in Dublin in March 2004, in response to a discussion about improving and increasing the focus on human rights issues amongst young people involved in youth clubs. It was then discussed at ECYC's Executive Committee meeting in Helsinki in June 2004, and again at the Chief Executive and President's network in Tallinn in September 2004. Unfortunately many people don't actually know what their rights are or where they can go to find them. The **Measuring Human Rights in Youth Clubs** - project aims to research and analyse how much young people know and understand about their human rights.

ECYC has always had a strong interest in promoting human rights, and in encouraging its member organisations to prioritise these issues highly in their work with young people. We believe that the project will significantly increase the focus on human rights amongst youth workers and young people, both in the participating countries and more broadly across the ECYC network. It will also provide us with useful information from which to plan future projects, such as training needs, seminar topics and so on.

## Objectives

The project is innovative in that it combines a number of elements, including information, training, support and information gathering, in order to help compile detailed information about young people's views towards human rights issues in ten countries. The project will also involve young people in the development and implementation of the information, and in the dissemination of the results. The final report will provide useful information about the attitudes of young people across Europe to human rights issues, and this will enable ECYC and other international youth organisations to plan projects aimed at providing young people with opportunities to address the issues which are highlighted as needing further development. Thirdly, the project will highlight the training needs of youth workers and youth leaders across Europe.

The project will train one youth leader in each country in human rights education and issues, and this person will then take the lead in disseminating this information and supporting the youth workers and youth leaders in their country to carry out group work sessions to answer the questionnaire on human rights issues and attitudes. This will also lead to the improved skills of ten youth leaders in each country, who will become more skilled and confident in addressing these issues with young people. The project report will also provide information aimed at improving the training and information available to youth workers across Europe in human rights issues.

## Target groups

- \* Youth organisations will benefit, because the final report will provide them with valuable information about the attitudes of young people toward human rights issues
- \* Young people at the local level will benefit, because they will be encouraged to consider human rights issues in a practical and realistic way, and be encouraged to develop realistic local responses to the issues raised
- \* Youth workers / leaders will benefit, because they will be provided with a clear tool for discussing issues related to human rights with young people, and the final report will assist in

the development of training tools and information for youth workers, based on the results of the project

\* Local communities: Dissemination of the information gathered is central to the implementation of the project. The aim of the project is to measure the attitude of young people toward human rights issues, by using a standard questionnaire to ask their attitudes and opinions. This will help to measure the local attitudes of young people, and provide a starting point for comparisons between young people from the same country, and between the different countries involved. This will serve as a kind of "Eurobarometer" on the human rights attitudes of young people across Europe.

## **Partners**

- The Finnish Federation of Settlement Youth Organisations (SETNL), *Finland*
- Federation of Youth Clubs in Armenia (FYCA), *Armenia*
- Vlaamse Federatie van Jeugdhuizen en Jongeren centra vzw (VFJ), *Belgium*
- Forum Tinerilou Noua Moldova (FTNM), *Moldova*
- Public Movement Multinational Georgia (PMMG), *Georgia*
- Fritidsforum, *Sweden*
- Russian Union of Youth (RUY), *Russia*
- UK Youth, *UK*
- Our Children, *Ukraine*
- Pan-Cyprian Coordinating Committee of Youth Centers (PCCYC), *Cyprus*