



LE GOUVERNEMENT
DU GRAND-DUCHÉ DE LUXEMBOURG
Ministère de l'Éducation nationale,
de l'Enfance et de la Jeunesse

Outreach youth work in open youth centers in the context of the YG

Do we need new concepts for youth work ?

NATHALIE KEIPES

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Contribution

- quest of new models of youth work to find
- benefit of a youth-centered approach to offer
- some findings from :
 - evidence (National Youth Report on 3 transitions – January 2016)
 - practise (inter-ministerial YG committee and outreach pilot-project in open youth work)

Luxembourg context of open youth work

- 50 open youth centers and 130 professional youth workers
- mission : « ... provide **meeting spaces for the development of social links** between young people among themselves and with youth workers.»
- principles : Non-formal education, activities self-directed by young people, free participation, no obligation for results

What is outreach youth work in the Luxembourg context ?

Outreaching means :

- enter youth cultures and youth scenes in the public spaces
- acquire knowledge about the social spaces
- youth work activities

Is it street work ?

- No, street work relates in our context to problem-oriented social work
- outreach youth work is subject-oriented
- interpretative patterns **can be** (if requested by the young person) the starting point for further individual offers

The immersed outreach youth worker ...

- continuous presence
- is « one of us »
- networker able to build bridges with the « outside »
- intense relationshipwork in the street

On the Youth Guarantee ...

- a more efficient management ?
- bunching all existing youth employment measures and measures for early school leavers ?
- a special opportunity to address quality
- would it change youth work ?

Youth work has to play a role !

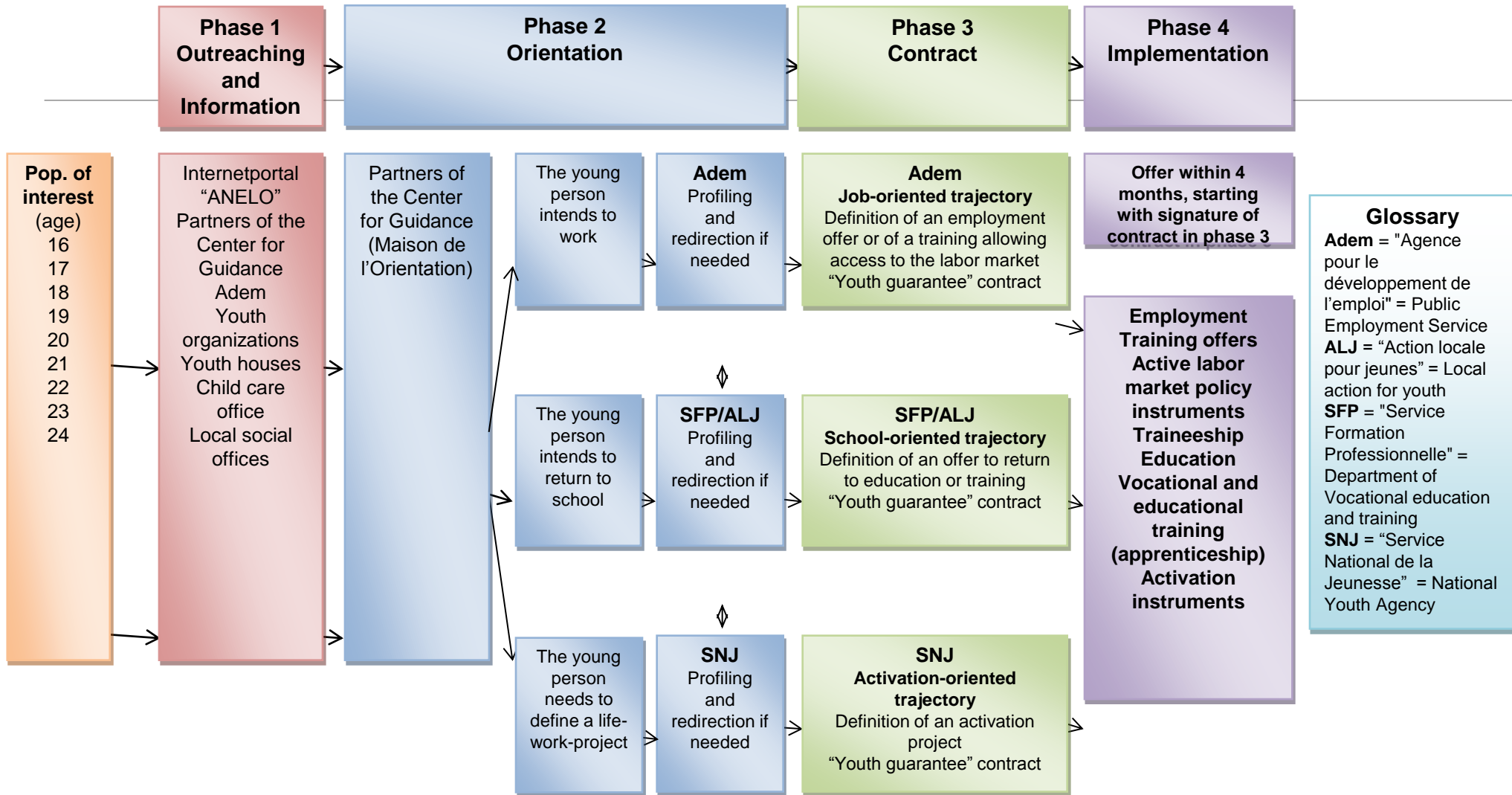
A moral obligation because :

- empathetic acting towards young people in need
- youth policy and youth work have the mission to facilitate the transition to adulthood and to autonomy

An ongoing development of the YG coherence

- stimulus for a closer institutional collaboration and co-responsibility of ministries and public administrations
- « Youthtable 2014 » - round-table with youth representatives and youth workers
- 2016 : presentation of an integrated Education and Youth approach to the YG scheme

Diagram of the Youth Guarantee Implementation Plan



Discovering the teamplayers of the YG

- Ministry of Labour
- Public Employment Service
- Ministry of Education and Youth – Unit for Vocational Education and Training (VET)
- Ministry of Education and Youth – Youth unit
- National Youth Agency

Views of young people on the YG – results of the « Youthtable »

- balanced description of the rights and obligations
- coherence of the missions of the different stakeholders
- develop quality criteria for YG measures : what makes a good YG measure ?

Recent findings ..

- 35 % of the participants say that the measure is not related to their professional aspiration
 - 28 % say that the measure did not respond to their needs, they feel « parked » in the measure
- Quality must be a topic to be addressed in the YG

Towards quality criteria for measures

Benefits to address :

1. Knowledge and competence growth
2. Personal development, personal and social skills
3. Improvement of the professional chances and better perspectives

Towards quality criteria for measures

- a) Respect of the perspective of the young person
- b) Clear identification of strengths and weaknesses
- c) Tailor-made matching with the need of the young person
- d) Individual encouragement, coaching and personal support

Discovering different logics of intervention to address the transition to employment

1. Labour market centered policy : reduce the unemployment rates
2. Formal education policy : reduce early-school leaving
3. Youth policy and youth work : personal and social development of young people

A double mandate for youth work ?!

- Can youth work remain true to itself and be an instrument of a « 3 logics YG » ?
- How can the different logics of intervention be made compatible ?

Towards youth-friendly employment policies

- Clarification of the outcomes and the quality process
- Communication about youth work in a context of cross-sectorial policies
- Recognition of outreach youth work
- Consideration of the context of employers

Preserve the strengths and opportunities of youth work

- Self-perception and the interaction with young people
- Development of new models

Flexibility of YG schemes

Challenges are :

- Outreach youth work with marginalised young people is expensive : high cost-benefit ratio
- Data collection : monitoring of non-formal education processes

ESF Pilot project 2016-2017 : Outreach in open youth work

- What ? Activate marginalised young people difficult to reach
- How ? By outreach youth work from 7 open youth centers
- Why ? Professionalise their « empathetic acting »
- Steps ? Reach out – gain trust – find the subjectivity – get them involved – let skills and aspirations evolve – be a resource person
- Outcomes ? National outreach concept for open youth work and evaluation report by the University of Luxembourg

Conclusions

- Preserve the strengths and opportunities of youth work
- Make the YG schemes flexible and open to youth work intervention
- Develop meaningful quality measures and YG quality criteria with a focus on young people's subjectivity

Thank you for your attention

nathalie.keipes@men.lu