

CODE OF ETHICS FOR YOUTH LEADERS

**WHEN
COMMUNICATING
WITH YOUNG PEOPLE**



engage youth

**EMPOWERING NEXT GENERATION
ADVOCATES FOR GLOBAL EDUCATION**

ERASMUS+ COOPERATION PARTNERSHIPS IN YOUTH

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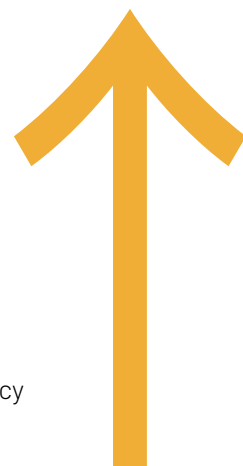
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CODE OF ETHICS FOR YOUTH LEADERS

WHEN COMMUNICATING WITH YOUNG PEOPLE



This code of ethics addresses youth leaders and establishes clear standards of conduct that promote respectful, responsible, and ethical communication with young individuals. It emphasizes what youth leaders should do based on core ethical principles such as integrity, respect, honesty, and fairness.

Its purpose is to protect the dignity, rights, and well-being of youth, ensuring that interactions are constructive and appropriate, thereby fostering a safe environment for growth and development. Additionally, the code helps youth leaders make ethical decisions, maintain professional boundaries, and build trust and credibility within the community.



The scope of such a code encompasses all forms of communication between youth leaders and young people, including face-to-face interactions, phone conversations, emails, social media, and other digital platforms.



EUROPE AND YOUNG PEOPLE



Youth leaders should:

- ✓ Align practice with European youth work values of human rights, participation, inclusion, and cross-cultural understanding; collaborate with European partners where relevant.
- ✓ Ensure accessibility across languages and contexts commonly encountered in European youth programmes (consider translation/interpretation).

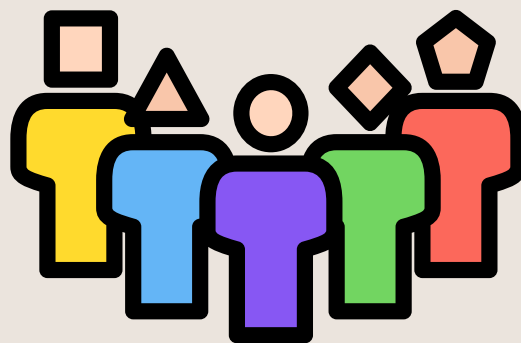
CULTURAL IDENTITY



Youth leaders should:

- ✓ Recognize and value each young person's cultural, ethnic, religious, linguistic, and personal background; avoid assumptions and stereotypes.
- ✓ Practice cultural humility: acknowledge limits of your own knowledge, embrace feedback, and commit to ongoing learning.

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION



Youth leaders should:

- ✓ Treat every young person with dignity; ensure equitable opportunities to participate and be heard. Remove barriers that disadvantage any group.
- ✓ Explicitly prohibit discrimination and establish clear procedures to address it.
- ✓ Be attentive to different communication styles, body language, and norms across cultures.

SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EQUITY



Youth leaders should:

- ✓ Challenge structures and practices that limit life opportunities; support awareness-raising and collective action that seeks fairer outcomes.
- ✓ Identify and address power imbalances in groups and programmes.

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND LEADERSHIP



Youth leaders should:

- ✓ Model integrity, honesty, and accountability; take responsibility for conduct and decisions, acknowledge mistakes, and improve.
- ✓ Foster youth participation and shared leadership; collaborate with colleagues and partners for the best outcomes.
- ✓ Set clear, professional boundaries to prevent favouritism, or misinterpretation.

DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP



Youth leaders should:

- ✓ Communicate online with the same ethical standards as offline; respect privacy norms and differing levels of digital access and literacy.
- ✓ Use clear, accessible language; be mindful of idioms/slang that may not translate.
- ✓ Safeguard data: protect sensitive information; share only with consent or when legally required.

DEVELOPING PROJECT MANAGEMENT

Youth leaders should:

- ✓ Plan activities with explicit risk assessment and duty of care; prioritize physical, emotional, and psychological safety.
- ✓ Define roles, boundaries, and communication protocols at the outset; establish procedures for conflict resolution and for addressing breaches of ethics.
- ✓ Seek supervision or peer support and pursue ongoing training to strengthen multicultural competence and ethical practice.



EVALUATE IMPACT

Youth leaders should:

- ✓ Build in reflective practice: regularly review inclusivity, accessibility, and outcomes; use feedback from young people to improve.
- ✓ Document and address cultural misunderstandings as learning opportunities; update procedures accordingly.



MOTIVATION STRATEGIES



Youth leaders should:

- ✓ Practice active, empathetic listening; validate feelings and perspectives to build rapport and motivation.
- ✓ Encourage meaningful participation and shared decision-making; recognize achievements and growth.
- ✓ Communicate clearly and accessibly so every young person can contribute confidently.

GENDER, SOCIAL, ECONOMIC, AND HEALTH

Youth leaders should:

- ✓ Apply a non-discrimination lens across gender, social class, disability, migration status, and health.
- ✓ Anticipate and mitigate intersecting barriers (e.g., economic hardship, health needs); adapt activities to ensure equitable access.
- ✓ Recognize how racism and cultural abuse harm wellbeing; intervene promptly and supportively.



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