

WELCOME!



A compact Checklist that encourages and supports Youth Organisations to be open, inclusive and welcoming towards displaced¹ youth and young migrants.

The present document was developed by the European Youth Forum's Migration and Human Rights Network, based on recommendations by displaced youth and young migrants.

This document aims to start a reflection within your youth organisation on how to involve more displaced and migrant youth in your work. The guiding questions you find below provide you with a tool to make your activities and structures more diverse.

Why is it important to be inclusive towards displaced youth?

The most important thing for me is not to treat the young people like they are "different" or need "special assistance". The intention is honourable but they shouldn't feel like they need extra circumstances in order to be integrated into a youth organisation. (Derai AL Nuaemi, Muslim Youth Austria)

Young people across Europe are often neglected and left out of decisions that are having a direct impact on their everyday lives. Displaced and migrant youth are first and foremost young people and have the same aspirations, needs and interests as their local peers. Like local young people they are right holders. Consequently, they should be consulted and meaningfully involved in all decisions concerning the different areas of their life.

Youth organisations are already taking an active role in advocating for young people's rights including displaced and migrant youth. They should also show by example to policy-makers and be at the forefront when it comes to ensuring that their membership reflects the composition of the society and their activities are inclusive.

¹-The displacement of people refers to the forced movement of people from their locality or environment and occupational activities.
<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/social-and-human-sciences/themes/international-migration/glossary/displaced-person-displacement/>

Have you thought about these points?

- **Diversity brings new perspectives to your work.** Europe is a culturally diverse continent, and was always at the frontline of recognising the great added value newly arrived people offer to local societies. Displaced young people also bring new ideas and approaches to youth organisations. By empowering them to meaningfully participate, the whole community is benefiting.
- **Youth work supports social inclusion and promotes tolerance.** Displaced and migrant youth are one of the most frequent targets of discrimination and social exclusion. Youth work, and one of its commonly used methods, non-formal education, is effective in addressing these issues. Non-formal education puts young people and their needs in the centre, values their competencies, is participatory and informs them about their rights. Through youth work, displaced and migrant young people have the space to interact with their peers and the local communities, thus breaking the existing stereotypes and prejudices between each other.
- **Youth organisations offer a platform for making all young people's voices heard.** Displaced young people and migrant youth face many difficulties when it comes to speaking about their problems. Youth organisations break down barriers and increase the visibility of obstacles young people have to overcome. They are a place where young migrants and displaced youth can take action and make their voices heard in society.

Guiding Questions

OPEN AND INCLUSIVE STRUCTURES

How will society benefit from the participation of displaced and migrant youth in your youth organisation?

How can your youth organisation create awareness about the situation of displaced youth and young migrants within the organisation itself?

What measures can be implemented to create an inclusive and non-discriminatory space for displaced and migrant youth?

How can your youth organisations create awareness of the situation of displaced youth and young migrants in society?

To what extent did you consider exchanging best practices with other youth organisations including migrant/refugee-led youth organisations?

To what extent did you reflect upon the language you are using? (e.g. inclusion vs. integration)

To what extent are displaced youth and young migrants involved in the structures of your youth organisation?

How are displaced youth and young migrants considered as target groups in your youth organisation?

APPROACHING DISPLACED YOUTH

Does your organisation deal with topics that are specifically relevant to displaced youth?

How can we identify the needs of displaced youth?

How can your youth organisation successfully reach out to displaced youth and young migrants?

What can you do to ensure access to transparent and accessible information about how to join your youth organisation?



How do displaced youth and young migrants get to know your youth organisation/activities?



To what extent did you directly invite displaced youth and young migrants to participate in your youth organisation and events?



MAKING YOUR ACTIVITIES MORE ACCESSIBLE AND WELCOMING

What measures need to be taken to ensure displaced youth and young migrants facing restrictions of free movement can participate in your activities/organisation? Can the young person you are aiming to work with leave the area they are living in? (e.g. Organise events close to the places where displaced youth and young migrants live or spend their time)

What obstacles do displaced and migrant youth face to participate in exchange activities (e.g. staying out overnight)? (Payment of fees might not be affordable, or the mode of the payment, for example by online banking, might not be possible if the young person does not have a bank account)

How can you ensure that displaced and migrant youth can fully participate in your activities? (e.g. Individual experiences of displaced youth and young migrants might create personal barriers to participation, for example sleeping in a tent might be associated with experiences during the flight.)



How is language diversity considered in your organisation/program? How can translation be supportive?



How can your youth organisation connect displaced youth and young migrants with service providers (e.g. health, language, legal advice...)?

How flexible is your organisation with regard to accessing your activities? (e.g. Consider breaks for praying, and food requirements when you are planning an event.)

How can displaced youth and young migrants take over responsibilities within your organisation? How can they assume leadership in the organisation of activities?