

CRITICAL YOUTH WORK?

SAVE THE DATE

**Rethinking and re-imagining conceptual approaches,
(un)learning democracy and human rights in times of
shrinking and contested civic spaces**

**A networking conference for YOU(th) workers, EDC/HRE trainers,
educators, facilitators, youth researchers, and activists**

12.-17. May 2024

Weimar

CRITICAL YOUTH WORK?

Democratic civil society is under pressure. Legal, financial and economic hurdles increasingly hamper the work of civil society actors in many countries. Democratic/human rights and especially vulnerable actors are under attack, and their spaces for participation and shaping society are being hostile and restricted, especially by right-wing nationalist political actors and groups. Election results also show that illiberal and undemocratic attitudes are becoming politically acceptable in the centre of our societies.

The conference "**Critical Youth Work**" from 12-17 May 2024 in Weimar invites to a multi-perspective mash-up, to reflect and develop. We want to get to know different concepts and their protagonists who **conceptually and pedagogically** take up the current developments/phenomena, as well as **jointly formulate, (re)discover and practically experiment with approaches pedagogically**. Further information can be found in the [concept note](#).

What is supposed to happen?

A 6-day (non)conference. Together with European and international partners, we want to deal with questions of democratic education in civil society, challenges to youth work through hostility and increasing polarisation, a "have your say" of vulnerable and non-included groups, and thus a re-measurement of pedagogical concepts of non-formal education. The (non)conference is our guiding pedagogical concept. It is not about "lecturing" and "collecting rows of best practice", but about conceptual pausing, reflecting, rethinking existing approaches critically and anew - e.g. in relation to youth/youth work/activism and global social justice, climate justice, identity, diversity, peace etc. in the form of sessions, workshops, discussion rounds, practice reflections, inputs, films, exhibitions, performances et al.

We want to represent and bring together the different levels, theory, research, pedagogical practice, different expertise and social realities. The aim is to think together, to map out common horizons of action, to develop an idea of "Critical Youth Work" - to jointly address and engage the diverse and multi-faceted communities of youth workers/civic educators in Europe (and beyond).

We are looking for:

Contributors who can give thought-provoking impulses in any form (sessions, workshops, discussions, reflections on practice, inputs, films, exhibitions, performances ...) from theory and practice, which will help to stimulate and shape the event.

We are looking for **participants** from the field of youth work and civic education who are interested in taking part. We expressly invite organisations that would like to participate in the event together with their international cooperation partners or their representatives.

We are also looking for **supporters** to support us in the realisation of the event: moderation, documentation, organisation, on-site support.

Expressions of interest (contribution, participation and support) until 19.02.2024:

<https://forms.gle/Ra5PcBkD22S2nggQA>

PARTNER

The members of the Commission "European and International Educational Work" in the "Arbeitskreis deutscher Bildungsstätten" (AdB) and their international and European partners (<https://www.adb.de/node/105>)



SUPPORT



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12.-17. May 2024 (Weimar, Germany)

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