



# Benefits of supporting Open Youth Work

## Opportunities

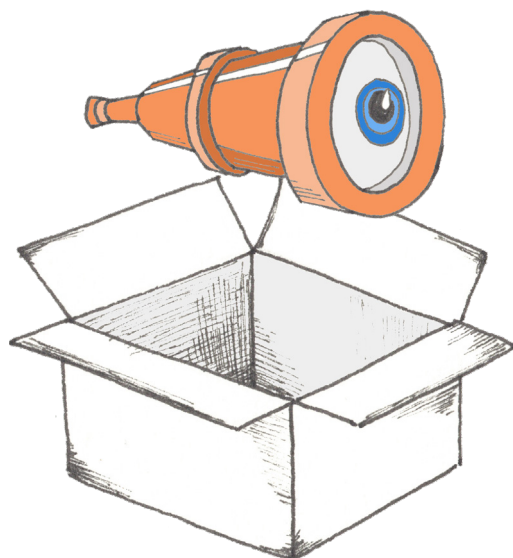
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Open Youth Work Youth Centres contribute to a better society in various ways, bringing benefits mostly on social and economical level, but also on a personal level for those involved and supporting such initiatives.

A youth centre represents a safe environment where youngsters can express themselves, can be creative and where their parents can trust them to be safe (both physically and mentally). This means that they would grow to be reliable citizens, able to vote, to express their options and to engage other people around them to do the same. A youth centre can be a space where connections are built and networks are established, where people know each other and support one another, where youngsters discuss their views and opinions, and where loyalty and trust can be built up.

Moreover, a youth centre is an economical point, where resources are brought and used in the community and for the community, where services are hired and money from external sources are brought in and spent in the community.

We have summarised the most important social, economic and political benefits of Open Youth Work in the table below.



### Legend

- S** = short term period
- M** = medium term period
- L** = long term period

**Benefits** = social, economical, political



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S ●

M ●

L ●

### Benefits



Free space for youngsters to “open up”.

More social services provided to the community.

Community building process. Visible improvements in the behavior of their youngsters. Youngsters become independent, active, standing for themselves, finding themselves. Strengthen the society and the networks within it.



More events, activities create greater economical impact.

YC projects and activities support local communities and businesses (i.e. Erasmus+ or ESC projects).

Promoting a healthy lifestyle decreases health insurance expenses. Youngsters become more capable of creating new companies and business activities in the community.



Increased visibility and positive image of both community and decision-makers.

Citizens build trust towards institutions and decision makers.

Youngsters take active part in democratic decision making process.