

Brussels 18-22.10.2021

WORDS FROM THE STREET

International Forum of Social Street Workers

Activity Report



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BACKGROUND & INTRODUCTION

WHEN THE STREET SPEAKS

The street worker members of Dynamo International – Street Workers Network (DISWN) once again came together in Brussels to take part in the 3rd Street Workers' International Forum, called "Words from the Street", on 18-22 October 2021.

The Words from the Street forum aims to foster international mobilisation in order to develop structural and lasting responses to the issues faced by the most excluded communities, who are often in street situations, in Europe and around the world. The forum also aims to enable young people and street workers to speak out, as they witness first-hand the reality of life on the streets.

Over the course of the five-day event, and using grassroots reality as the starting point, the participants talked, enhanced their practices, created together, recharged their batteries, and formulated recommendations that were presented at the European Commission on Friday 22 October 2021, the forum's final day.



➔ <https://youtu.be/oV7cW5GRa9Y>

OPENING OF THE FORUM & INAUGURATION OF THE PHOTO EXHIBITION

In the presence of Caroline Désir, Minister of Education and Valérie Devis, Director General of the General Service for Youth Assistance Services and Youth Protection and Adoption Services.

Opening address by Valérie Devis

"I am honoured to open this 3rd International "Words from the Street" Forum, because as the new director general, the forum is a nod to my first job, a nod to those unforgettable times when, as a young

street educator, sporting trainers, I would tramp the streets of Saint-Gilles looking to meet the neighbourhood's young people.

And opening this 3rd forum with Véronique Vercheval's exhibition - Travailleur et Travailleuses de Rue, Tisseur·euse·s de Liens, enables the work that you are going to do during the forum to be showcased.

The observations that you will make and the recommendations that you will present to the European Commission next Friday are vital ways of promoting your work, which often takes place in the shadows, but deserves recognition.

As a matter of fact, I am convinced that street work is vital in our society, and particularly in this post-covid period during which a large number of children and young people, and families, ended up alone and even without resources. Street work is vital because it is a powerful tool to fight poverty and social exclusion, because the very essence of social work is forging or reforging links in order to strengthen the capacity to take action of people in difficulty. Street work is all about reaching out to others so that they can develop, and sometimes also rebuild their lives, and doing it with goodwill and without discriminating.

For a year, the photographer Véronique Vercheval focused her gaze on street social workers in Romania, DRC, Vietnam, Israel, Haiti, Palestine, and, of course, Belgium.

I hope that you will like her amazing work.

I will end this introduction by wishing you "all the best" for a productive week at this 3rd Words from the Street International Forum, and I will see you again on the closing day on Friday 22 October, when I will be delighted to meet up with you and listen to you!"

Social street workers, Connection weavers

Inauguration of the photojournalist Véronique Vercheval's exhibition. "There are street professions, just like there is the street, a street, and streets..."

Street work primarily involves reaching out to human beings, taking into account their distinctive characteristics, whether they are young people who have dropped out of education, homeless people, or more generally, socially-excluded people.

Street social workers have a special bond, enabling them to intervene early in the most sensitive situations. They provide a connection between mainstream social assistance mechanisms and the people excluded from them. However, street social work is not properly valued as a means of effectively addressing poverty and exclusion.

For almost a year, the photographer Véronique Vercheval focused her gaze on street social workers in Belgium, Romania, DRC, Vietnam, Haiti, Israel and Palestine.

Dynamo International decided to depict the daily lives of these street social workers who work "in the shadows" in order to raise the awareness of the general public and politicians about this strand of social work.

➔ [View Véronique Vercheval's work on tisseursdeliens.be](https://tisseursdeliens.be)

FORUM PROGRAMME

Mo 18.10	Tu 19.10	We 20.10	Th 21.10	Fr 22.10
9 > 10:45 AM OPENING Thread of the week	9:30 > 11 AM OPEN SPACE TECHNOLOGY Participative & Creative workshops	9:30 > 11 AM OPEN SPACE TECHNOLOGY Participative & Creative workshops	SPOT 1 9:30 > 11 AM AFRICA	SPOT 4 9:30 > 11 AM EUROPE
11 AM > 1 PM OPEN SPACE TECHNOLOGY Participative & Creative workshops	11:30 AM > 1 PM OPEN SPACE TECHNOLOGY Participative & Creative workshops	11:30 AM > 1 PM OPEN SPACE TECHNOLOGY Convergence and closure	SPOT 7 11:30 AM > 1 PM AMERICA	SPOT 9 11:30 AM > 1 PM ASIA
2 > 3:15 PM OPEN SPACE TECHNOLOGY Participative & Creative workshops	2 > 5 PM Field visits	2 > 3:15 PM OPEN SPACE TECHNOLOGY Participative & Creative workshops	2 > 5 PM Field visits	2 > 5 PM Creative workshop ALLÉE DU KAJI
3:45 > 5 PM OPEN SPACE TECHNOLOGY Participative & Creative workshops	2 > 5 PM Field visits	2 > 5 PM Field visits	2 > 5 PM Reading & writing of recommendations	3 PM STREET ACTION
5 PM Opening PHOTO EXHIBITION Connection Weavers	7 PM GAME EVENING	7 PM CONCERT EVENING	7 PM FESTIVAL DES LIBERTÉS	FREE EVENING
7 PM MEETING EVENING				

OPEN FORUM: PARTICIPATORY WORKSHOPS

The open forum was created in light of the observation that, at meetings, the most worthwhile conversations take place during coffee breaks. Consequently, this method aims to replicate the circumstances in which these informal discussions take place. The open forum is a participatory facilitation method that fosters the emergence of collective intelligence within a group.

The principles of open space technology

- ➔ **Whoever is present is the right person**
the necessary wisdom and genuine interest are present in the group.
- ➔ **Whatever happens is the only thing that could have been**
let go of regrets and focus on the best possible effort in the present moment.
- ➔ **Whenever it starts is the right time**
take things as they come.
- ➔ **When it is over, it is over**
shorter or longer discussions, depending on the group's wishes.
- ➔ **The Law of Two Feet**
if you find yourself in a situation where you are neither learning nor contributing, use your two feet, go somewhere where you will!
- ➔ **Totem animals**
bees: they circulate and spread ideas
butterflies: they take a break or reflect

We called on the collective collectiv-a.be to help us with this participatory approach.

The participatory method and collective intelligence tools enabled the participants to be the main players in the forum by giving them the opportunity to suggest and facilitate workshops.

Roughly 50 workshops were proposed.

A handful of instructions were given for organisational and quality reasons:

- The workshops will be one and a half hours long.
- The workshops will accommodate a maximum of 25 participants including facilitators.
- Each person proposing a workshop is committed to facilitate it and to ensure a written record of it. They may appoint a note taker from among the workshop participants.
- It is requested that, as far as possible, a synthesis of the workshops be carried during their last 15 minutes. This short summary will be used to bring out the main ideas of the workshop and can be used to produce the recommendations of the Forum. A simple handout to fill in will be provided to each facilitator.

The forum format enabled every individual to suggest a workshop and lots of ideas to be generated in a wonderful organised chaos. Over the course of the five-day event, and using grassroots reality as the starting point, the participants talked, enhanced their practices, created together, recharged their batteries, and formulated recommendations that were presented at the European Commission on the forum's final day.

[READ THE RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE STREET WORKERS](#)

List of workshops

Workshops in English

- Streetwork and psychoeducational interventions for minors (Roma, refugees, etc.)
- Active participation in street youth work
- To peer or not to peer? Quel statut pour les travailleurs et travailleuses pairs ?
- Trust begin onset relationship
- Housing first for youth
- Reducing harm among drug users
- Consortium for street children: film and debate. The film charts the story of civil society and government working together in the Philippines and Uruguay to develop National Plans for children in street Situations.
- How to collaborate with different stakeholders and target groups
- Advocacy, political activism of streetworkers
- Street Work from local institutions/governments in collaboration with NGO
- Empowerment of young people activity
- Create a gallery of trust
- [street-smart.be](#): educational materials for street youth work

Workshops in French

- Mental health and street work
- Nexus Human Rights: the situation of street children in Colombia.
- Street social workers' entitlement to services
- Doing street work online
- Drugs and street situations
- Chess as a street worker technique for approaching people
- Reaching out: spontaneity vs applying a modus operandi
- The precarious existence of street workers

- Minority-majority transition, and access to housing
- Between the streets and school
- Relationships: a considered craft
- Female streets: representation, deconstruction, and resourcefulness
- Street work and gender perspective
- Using social media in street work (drama workshop)
- Reducing risks for male sex work (using safe consumption rooms).
- Street work with young people in transit/migrants
- Access to alternative housing
- Radicalisation vs polarisation
- Prevention and street work
- Homeless young people
- Is an education possible while living rough?
- Building a community in the city, presentation of the temporary occupation of a vacant building in Brussels open to all.
- Street work with young adults aged 21-30.
- Street work in rural areas (presentation of the specially fitted-out truck).
- Street work in the context of an overdose crisis
- The role played by animals in making connections
- Magical moments in our street work careers
- Street work organisation funding (NGOs, government funding, donations).
- Working on shared problems on the streets
- Making street connections: capoeira and percussion

Spanish workshops

- Street culture and identity
- Checking our privilege: privilege in socio-educational work.
- Street work and a rights-based approach
- Street work with a human rights focus

Participating associations

ALBANIA: [Nisma për Ndryshim Shogëror \(ARSIS\)](#) | **BELGIUM:** [ACODEV](#) / [Allee du Kaai – TOESTAND](#) / [AMO CARS](#) / [AMO Jeun'Est](#) / [AMO La Boussole](#) / [AMO Le Signe](#) / [Amo Passages](#) / [Belgisch Netwerk Armoedebestrijding: BAPN](#) / [Bureau International Jeunesse \(BIJ\)](#) / [cabrio](#) / [LiSS](#) / [CEMO](#) / [Centre COMETE asbl AMO](#) / [Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles](#) / [Citadelle asbl](#) / [DEI-Belgique](#) / [Dynaco asbl](#) / [Dynamo AMO](#) / [Dynamo International – Street Worker Network](#) / [Dynamo International asbl](#) / [Jes](#) / [Jugendbüro](#) / [LHAC](#) / [Mobile School NPO](#) / [Relais santé du pays de Charleroi](#) / [Réseau Wallon de Lutte contre la Pauvreté](#) / [SAM vzw](#) / [Service de la prévention de Bruxelles \(Aide à la Jeunesse\)](#) / [Solidarités Nouvelles](#) / [SOS jeunes – Quartier Libre AMO](#) / [Stad Sint-Niklaas](#) / [Straathoekwerk Oostende](#) / [TADA vzw](#) / [Tchai – Temps d'accroche Adolescents en exil](#) / [TSR Mouscron](#) / [Vagevuur vzw](#) / [Wallonie – Bruxelles International \(WBI\)](#) / [Zorggroep Zin](#) | **BOLIVIA:** [Asociación Mi Rancho](#) / [Fundación Alalay](#) | **BRAZIL:** [Associação de Educadores Sociais de Maringá \(AESMAR\)](#) | **CANADA:** [ATTrueQ \(spectre de rue\)](#) / [ATTRueQ / ROCQTR](#) / [Dopamine](#) / [En tout C.A.S.](#) / [Macadam Sud](#) / [Pilier Jeunesse](#) / [RAP Jeunesse](#) / [Travail de rue Lavaltrie](#) / [UQO](#) | **SPAIN:** [Nuevo Futuro – Asociación Navarra](#) | **FRANCE:** [APSN](#) / [Association ACTION JEUNESSE PESSAC](#) / [AURORE](#) / [AVANCE – Villeneuve d'Ascq](#) / [CAPEP](#) / [Dynamo France](#) / [Entourage](#) / [HORIZON9](#) / [Institut Régional du Travail Social PACA et Corse](#) / [Le Relai](#)

[SEA35](#) / [Oppelia Charonne](#) / [SAMI ADSEA 28](#) / [Sauvegarde 42](#) / [Toulouse Métropole – Club de prévention des quartiers Est](#) | **GREECE:** [Association for the social support of youth \(ARSIS\)](#) | **LITHUANIA:** [Vilnius social club](#) | **MEXICO:** [El Caracol](#) | **MYANMAR:** [Médecins du Monde](#) | **PALESTINE:** [Defense for Children Palestine \(DCI\)](#) | **NETHERLANDS:** [BVJONG](#) | **DRC:** [Comité d'Appui au Travail Social de Rue \(CATSR\)](#) | **CZECH REPUBLIC:** [Ceska street work](#) | **ROMANIA:** [Fundatia Parada, Salvati Copiii](#) | **SWITZERLAND:** [Gassenarbeit Bern](#) / [Commune d'Epalinges](#) | **SENEGAL:** [Avenir De l'Enfant \(ADE\)](#) / [COSAED](#) | **SLOVAKIA:** [MLADEZ ULICE](#) | **SLOVENIA:** [Zavod BOB](#) | **TOGO:** [Amis pour une Nouvelle Génération des Enfants, A.N.G.E.](#)

CREATIVE WORKSHOP

Wordless from the Streets

From the very beginning, the participants wanted to share and express experiences and ideas. Over the first days of the meeting (Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday), the creative coordinators sought to incorporate and interpret the various topics on which the forum participants wished to express their views. The aim was to prepare a multidisciplinary workshop leading to a performance on the Friday afternoon.

On the Thursday afternoon, we involved the participants who wanted to express themselves artistically in three disciplines: music and choreography, circus, and visual arts. The participants themselves wrote and created a 20-minute performance that took place in a public space (Place Flagey).

For the musical section, we sought (just as the forum did in words) a collective rhythm to share with the public. For the circus part, we built pyramids to try to show that street workers build a foundation in a neighbourhood for people who are lacking one. As for the choreography, we drew on the image of a society which tries to erase anything different, in order to show that street work is all about giving time and space to these differences. The visual arts section enabled us to depict the different skills and strengths of street workers: eyes, ears, a burning fire (their energy), flexibility and connections.

We managed to put together a performance using the participatory creation method in a short space of time, all thanks to the motivated participants. The artists offered up their expertise, but the participants created and performed a show based on information from the forum and their own creativity.

Peter Veyt, www.peterveyt.com

CONTINENTAL WORKSHOPS

The members of DISWN met in regional groupings (Africa, Asia, Americas, and Europe) in order to review the situation in different areas of the globe. These workshops also produced recommendations.

African region

Animation by Moussa Sow, regional coordinator (DISWN):

- **Socio-political issues from the experience of social street workers members of national platforms in African countries**, by Moussa Sow
Questions/answers with the floor
- **Migration: what are the social and political issues?** by Moussa Sow – Sté-phane Tessier, expert for DISWN, France – Valbona Hystuna, Youth Support Center & EU project Coordination at ARSIS, expert for DISWN, Greece
Questions/answers with the floor

European region

Animation by Anja Manja and Helmut Steinkellner, regional co-coordinators (DISWN):

- **Social Rights in Europe**, by Anna Rurka, social educator, University of Warsaw, former President of the Council of Europe INGO Conference.
Questions/answers with the floor
- **Socio-political issues from the experience of social street workers members of national platforms in African countries**, by Helmut Steinkellner
Questions/answers with the floor
- **Magic Wand for Street Work, presentation of the Erasmus+ project Slovenia, Croatia, Czech Republic, Netherlands, Portugal**, by Anja Manja Segulin
Questions/answers with the floor

American region

Animation by Veronica R. Müller and Francis Lacharité, regional co-coordinators (DISWN):

- **Socio-political issues from the experience of social street workers members of national platforms in American countries**, by Francis Lacharité, Québec
Questions/answers with the floor
- **Presentation of the « Diagnosis of social struggles of street social educators in the Americas »**, with Veronica Müller, Brazil
Questions/answers with the floor
- **Human Rights approach and gender perspective in street social work**, presentation of the Erasmus+ AMERICAS project, by Jon Echeverria, Asociación Navarra Nuevo Futuro, Spain
Questions/answers with the floor

Asian region

Animation by Edwin de Boevé, director of Dynamo International:

- **Nepal**, CPCS – Child Protection Centers and Services, Inge Bracke and Bijesh Shrestha
Vietnam, Platform of Vietnamese Social Street Workers, Kim Tran Thi
Hong Kong, HKPA – Hong Kong Playground Association, Wan Lap Man

India, CINI, Child in Need Institut, Lopamudra Mullick

Questions/answers with the floor

- **Philippines**, Virilanie Foundation Inc, Dominique Lemay

East Timor, Advocacy for Street Children and Youth Networking Action, Claudino Ximenes

Israel, ELEM – Youth in Distress, Guy Reut

Palestine, Défense des enfants (DEI) – Khaled Quzmar, Director of DEI-Palestine, Jerusalem

Questions/answers with the floor

[READ THE RECOMMENDATIONS ISSUED DURING THE CONTINENTAL WORKSHOPS](#)

FIELD VISITS

Given that the forum participants were for the most part grassroots street workers, the idea was to give them the chance to discover the third sector in Brussels.

The aim was not only to highlight the different initiatives being run to support various communities in street situations, but also foster a debate between street workers in order to generate discussion, ideas, or simply address from another angle issues and questions that are already present in their daily lives. Furthermore, the field visits enabled participants, as part of a single visit group, to meet each other and talk about their reactions and what they discovered while on the visits.

A list of associations that agreed to receive visits can be found below. The associations wanted to share their work, explain and showcase it, and play a part in defending and showcasing street work.

Youth work

[Alhambra AMO](#): AMO ALHAMBRA is a community-based outreach service targeting young people up to the age of 22, and all the people who are part of their environment. The organisation focuses on social and educational prevention work. Alhambra runs several projects with young people, schools, and on the streets, in order to have a close relationship with the neighbourhood and its residents.

[AtMOsphères asbl](#): AtMOsphères is a community-based outreach service approved by the *Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles* (French Community of Belgium). The organisation provides a **social and street on-call service**, **individual support**, various **activities**, and **personalised support** for young people and parents who request it.

[CEMO AMO](#): CEMO is a community-based outreach service located in Saint-Gilles and works with young people. Their service is free-to-access for all local young people aged 0-22 and their families. The service is open to any young person needing help or who is experiencing difficulties, and any parent or relative or friend who is encountering difficulties in bringing up or relating to a child.

[Centre Comète](#): A community-based outreach service located in the city centre. It works with local young people in order to build relationships, undertake groundwork based on being close to young people, and offer a forum for dialogue and trustworthy, open-minded and non-judgemental help.

The Comète street workers have a regular Wednesday afternoon outdoor session, and undertake outreach work. The rest of the time they work in teams and with young people at the organisation's premises. Their door is always open, and they are determined to bring alive the neighbourhood!

[Itinéraires AMO](#): **Itinéraires AMO** is a community-based outreach service which focuses on and supports young people in difficulty (education, family, petty crime, etc.) It is part of the youth services sector (AAJ) and focuses on the under-22s. The organisation's work revolves around preventive help for young people in their community and in their relationship with their environment. The service helps

them to develop tools or enables them to be involved in the life of the community and become responsible and independent adults.

[JES vzw](#): An organisation that works with children and young people in Brussels. JES supports them with leisure activities, education, work, training and wellbeing. [Streetcornerwork](#) is one of the services offered by JES. The JES street workers work with the most vulnerable young people on the streets in several areas.

Sex work sector

[Alias](#): The aim of the organisation is to relaunch and secure the long-term future in Brussels of a quality counselling, social and medical support project aimed at male sex workers in Brussels, with the priority being health promotion work, including prevention and risk reduction, access to healthcare and social rights for the target population.

[Espace P](#): Espace P is an association that helps people involved in sex work, their clients, and those close to them. It offers and/or encourages the following: medical help, social support, counselling, emancipation, continuing education, cultural activities, networking.

Homelessness sector

[DIOGENES](#): The organisation works on the streets with homeless people in the places where they live. It offers personalised support throughout their time on the fringes of society. Situations encountered on the streets are always unique, different and complex. Standardised responses do not work. They only lead to more misunderstandings and a greater feeling of rejection. Bespoke social support tailored to the expectations and needs of each homeless person is the only method that works. The organisation also develops a large number of housing-based reintegration schemes.

[Douche Flux](#): Douche Flux seeks to counteract the rejection of people in precarious circumstances, whether or not they are homeless, documented, from Belgium or further afield. Human beings and their intrinsic dignity are at the heart of their work. Douche Flux offers essential services, organises activities, and runs an “advocacy” hub, which seeks to deconstruct the stereotypes about poverty, and advocates that homelessness can become a thing of the past. Following the COVID-19 pandemic, Douche Flux has opened temporary accommodation for homeless women with the aim of supporting them towards moving to long-term housing.

[Infirmiers de Rue asbl](#): Over 700 people sleep on the streets of Brussels. **Infirmiers de rue** (Street Nurses) refer to them as their patients. They go out on to the streets with their teams and actively seek out the homeless. They deliver intensive social and medical care to the homeless community in the long term. The end goal is to get them off the streets and sustainably reintegrate them into society in appropriate and suitable housing.

[Latitude Nord](#): Very vulnerable people sometimes need a welcoming place to go. They are welcome at Latitude Nord! The organisation provides a space for an informal chat, as well as social and administrative support, and counselling.

[Team Herscham](#): Team Herscham is a unique police force in Belgium. Its main aim is to look after the homeless. After years of grassroots work, they have gained the trust of many people who live on the streets. Sometimes, real relationships are forged. This is because their work is primarily human and social.

Drug users sector

Dune – CLIP: The services offered by Dune aim to reduce drug user mortality, morbidity and social exclusion, by viewing them as fully-fledged citizens, who are concerned about their environment and life in the city. Their work is based on the fundamentals of reducing the health and social risks involved in drug use. They favour a non-directive attitude on the ground, and refrain from making any judgements or discriminating with regard to drug use. They focus on providing a listening ear.

Transit asbl: Launched in 1995, the non-profit Transit is a non-medical drop-in centre for adult drug users (narcotics, alcohol, prescription drugs). It encompasses nine projects: the crisis centre (day centre and shelter), the risk reduction unit (access to sterile equipment), prison work, phase IV (supervised studio flats), street work, phase V (access to social housing), ORBA (Brussels Region dependency management contract), training, and the women's space.

Other sectors

Allée du Kaai (Toestand asbl): Allée du Kaai is a *spontaneous action area* located between Avenue du Port and the Quai des Matériaux, along the banks of the canal in the Nord area of Brussels. It is a temporary project rolled out by the non-profit Toestand commissioned by the city's environment department. They are transforming unoccupied and abandoned spaces into temporary sociocultural centres. The area is coming back to life because of the citizen initiatives that are being stimulated and for which they are providing a venue.

Foyer Roma Stewards: Development and provision of expertise on the subject of the Traveller Community and settled Roma with a focus on education, training and employment. Roma representatives and mediators facilitate communication and cooperation for settled Roma families with the Traveller Community on the one hand, and with public bodies and the education system on the other, and try to bolster the social position of this target population.

WORDS FROM THE STREET/THE VOICE OF YOUNG PEOPLE

Getting young people involved

As part of the forum, several meetings between young people and street social workers were planned, so that some of street work's target population (young people) could express their views on the street social workers' recommendations and put forward their own ideas.

The two initiatives – Key Action 3 (Erasmus+) and Prevention 2021 (French Community of Belgium) were set up to foster meetings and discussion between young people and street social workers. However, because of the pandemic and the social distancing measures implemented by Belgium a month before the forum took place, the KA3 project had to be cancelled because of a lack of participants.

The Prevention 2021 project did take place in-person, albeit in a limited fashion, at the forum venue.

The afternoon of Wednesday 20 October, partly devoted to young people, resulted from it. Some 25 young people from Brussels were able to talk about their perceptions and experiences with the street social workers during Words from the Street and at the venue. These young people were from various organisations linked to different services in Brussels.

Project presentation

An hour-long session involved young people from some organisations explaining and sharing the projects in which they are involved with the other young people in attendance and the street social workers.

We were able to view and discuss a film made by young people from [PCS Merlo](#). The film dealt with the stereotypes that people have about young people. This was followed by young developers of the [Cité de la Jeunesse](#) project explaining their initiative and the space developed by and for young people. Finally, a number of girls from [Dynamo AMO](#) came to present a group that they are forming through various organisations, and which offers girls-only activities chosen only for the girls.

The young people and workers in attendance were able to ask all the questions that they wanted, and some workers expressed an interest in some of the practices being implemented, stating that they would like to replicate them in their countries after the forum ended.

Battle of the Questions

The aim of this contest was very simple, with the young people on one side of the room, and the street workers on the other. In turn, each group was allowed to ask the other group a question. The group scored points based on the relevance of the question and the quality of the answer provided.

The contest generated a fun discussion between the street workers and the young people, with a wide range of subjects covered, both serious and quirky, with everything being translated so that everyone could take part. Everyone played along. A few examples of questions asked:

- Why did you choose this career?
- As young people, are you worried about the environment, and in what way?
- Do you feel that social media has too great an impact on your lives?
- What would you wish for if you were allowed to make a wish?

Walking debate

The walking debate, organised for the young people, aimed to offer them a space in which to express their views on the recommendations formulated by the street workers over the first two days of the forum.

The young people did not know that some questions stemmed directly from workers' observations, so they were able to freely express their views without feeling awkward. We were able to observe that at times, young people's and street workers' views of the streets and public space were quite different.

Advocacy workshop and the European Commission

The young people were also asked to discuss in small groups the recommendations that they would implement if they became leaders of their neighbourhoods. Each group was then able to voice these recommendations at the forum closing day at the European Commission.

This was a moment of real intensity during which several young people had the chance to express their ideas and wishes in front of an assembly of over 200 people, and in front of the day's keynote speakers in the impressive Gasperi room in the Charlemagne building. On that day, thanks to them, the voice of the young people was not just heard, but really listened to. The outcome of their discussions is set out in detail below in the Recommendations section.

Conclusion

Actively involving young people in the forum would have required significant resources and follow-up both for KA3 and AAJ. It is unfortunate that the young people were not able to get involved in the forum on a long-term basis as initially planned with the KA3 project. This would have enabled us to gather more fully-developed accounts and ideas from the young people.

However, the afternoon of discussions between the street workers from around the world and young people from Belgium was a real success. We need to continue working with our target populations and not just between street workers when we next arrange this type of event.

[READ THE RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE YOUNG PEOPLE](#)

EVENINGS

The five-day forum meant that participants enjoyed four evenings together. They were able to meet each other, discover, share experiences and chat.

The Open Forum was already a conscious decision to plump for an informal meeting in order to encourage interaction, but what could be better than a drink at the end of the day to calm hearts full of emotions and heads bursting with ideas?

The aim of the evenings was to create a time for relaxation following the informal and free, albeit organised, sessions at the meeting itself. Three evening events took place at LaVallée, while the final evening was held at the Théâtre National, on the occasion of the Festival des Libertés cultural festival, thanks to a partnership between the festival and Dynamo International.

A bar run by the collectives of street social workers was installed at LaVallée. Located at the entrance to the building, between the courtyard and the areas used for the open forum, the main room swiftly became the place to go to meet up and enjoy a coffee or beer, or round off a discussion started in a workshop.

Monday evening was a meeting evening so that the Forum participants could get to know each other. A unique game of bingo encouraged the workers to find someone who had taken a flight lasting over six hours to get to Brussels, or someone who was taking part in their first forum, for instance. This enabled everyone to put a name, country, and often also an association to all the faces that they had met that day.

Tuesday evening was games evening, with a treasure hunt around the city, in order to get to know Brussels and spend time away from LaVallée, in addition to the field visits. Clearing their minds, and for many visiting Brussels, was a great experience. It satisfied all the participants because of its tourist slant, and provided a different view of the streets that are their workplace, and their playground on that particular evening.

Wednesday evening was a party and celebration night, the culmination of the new friendships forged and the making of a cohesive group, the day before the political recommendations were drafted and the street action was prepared. There was a succession of performances by musicians who had come to liven up the ambiance, with funk and jazz making way for local rap artists, before some of the participants themselves took to the stage. The evening was a lovely end to the evenings spent at the forum, just before the last day at the venue.

FESTIVAL DES LIBERTÉS EVENING

Theatre

FEROZ, Danilo Llanos – Chili • Es st Fr • 50'

I wish I hadn't been born.

Surrounded by other children deprived, like themselves, of voice, identity and rights, four children uncompromisingly evoke horror. They tell about their daily lives, what they see, live – endure – in a juvenile detention centre.

Danilo Llanos Quezada based his work on Edison Llanos' book *Mi Infierno en el Sename* a testimony of his shattered childhood within the Servicio Nacional de Menores in Chile. This national service for minors is an institution responsible for the protection of vulnerable children or those subjected to a judicial sentence, and for overseeing the adoption process. An investigation initiated by UNICEF has finally revealed the sexual abuse, violence and mistreatment that plague these services. Crying out in pain as much as in tears, Feroz portrays the forgotten, the missing, the hungry, and the efforts of these children to be among those who get out via adoption.

Staging: Danilo Llanos • Centro de Investigación Teatro La Peste

Distribution: Alanis Ibáñez • Martina Ibáñez • Felipe Carvajal • Diego Becker • Diego Jaramillo • Daniella Misle

Film

HUMANITY ON TRIAL, Jonas Bruun – DK • 2019 • 72' • VO/OV ST FR/EN

When he saw the images of refugees landing on the Greek coast, young Salam Aldeen decided to go see for himself and offer his aid. After creating his own humanitarian organisation and attempting to limit the human damages as best he can, he is accused of human trafficking by the Greek authorities. Salam could get life in prison for helping save lives.

Partners: Forum international "Paroles de rue" - Dynamo International – Street Workers Network and Festival des libertés.

Concert

CARAVAN PALACE

Caravan Palace is a fascinating and irresistible French ensemble that will make you dance. Their cocktail of jazz, electro swing, vocals and high tech has been electrifying crowds for almost a decade. What's more, the band always takes the time to produce sophisticated albums. Drawing inspiration from a broad range of artists from Django Reinhardt to Daft Punk, their on-stage vibe is unique.

Their space-time combines quality, energy and fun that will help you blow off some steam. There's nothing quite like a good physical boost to awaken the mind in preparation for the latest edition of the Festival des Libertés.

[FESTIVAL DES LIBERTÉS](#)

22.10.2021: CLOSING DAY AT THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION



➔ <https://youtu.be/KCa7EDwv12g>

Introductory and welcome address:

- **Maria-Anna Paraskeva**, Senior Policy Officer, European Commission, DG EMPL
- **Edwin de Boevé**, Director of Dynamo International

FIRST ROUND TABLE: The Globalisation of poverty: fatality or a social project?

Animation:

Edwin de Boevé, Director of Dynamo International

Speakers:

- **Testimony of a young on poverty**
- **Jana Hainsworth**, [Eurochild](#) Secretary General (about Child Poverty)
- **Christine Mahy**, [Walloon Poverty Reduction Network](#)
- **Khaled M.A. Quzman**, [DEI Palestine](#), Director
- **Moussa Sow**, Africa Regional Coordinator of [Dynamo International – Street Workers network](#)
- **Pierre Galand**, President of [Laïcité et Humanisme en Afrique Centrale asbl](#) (LHAC)

Jana Hainsworth, Eurochild Secretary General (about Child Poverty)

“We must monitor the application of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, and make governments aware of their responsibilities, i.e., hold governments accountable so that they implement these rights. A report produced last year about the impact of the pandemic and the measures taken has made us very concerned about the long-term mental health of children and young people.”

One of our recommendations, investing in children, has been adopted by the European Commission. The EU Member States must develop a national initiative: they need to implement the European Child Guarantee, which involves ensuring that each child has access to free, effective and quality services in the following areas: education, healthcare, childcare, housing and nutrition. We are also working on access to culture and leisure activities. In our eyes, these are really important for child development.

The management of this agenda and the rollout of these policies seems to be very "bureaucratic". Our role, as civil society stakeholders, is to ensure that it is not bureaucratic, and that concrete measures and undertakings make it a reality for all. This will make the difference when new policies are developed following the coronavirus crisis. We wish to emphasize this last point: this investment is going to children and young people because it is the only way to rebuild more sustainable, equal and inclusive societies."

Christine Mahy, Walloon Poverty Reduction Network

"Poverty is a construct. It stems from political and budget policy, and choices. The measures being taken are inadequate because they fail to guarantee fundamental rights. Poor people are wrongly blamed for the failure of these measures, as they fail to cope, and therefore endure twofold violence. The eradication of poverty by guaranteeing rights would enable poor people to manage their difficulties just like the rest of the population, as their problems take on extraordinary proportions in situations of poverty.

We need to do away with the idea that poverty is the fault of the individual. Poor people do not have a problem with the policies being implemented; quite the opposite. This is the very essence of the fight against poverty.

Action must be taken at all levels to change a system. Street work directly targets people in precarious circumstances. It does what it can to guarantee rights, and make their hostile environment bearable. This is exactly what needs to be done, but not just on the streets. Public services and policies should have the same focus, so that one day there is no longer a need to open a centre for the homeless."

Khaled M.A. Quzman, DEI Palestine, Director

"Nothing is more important than children's right to live. Even today, these rights are violated in many countries where children are being killed, such as Syria, Libya, Yemen, and Palestine. We have no idea how long these violations of children's rights will continue. In Palestine, violations of children's rights are directly linked to the Israeli occupation.

DEI Palestine does what it can to help Palestinian children who are alone in hospital because their families are not allowed to come with them, and children who end up homeless because their homes have been destroyed. In Gaza, children have lost their lives because they have been refused permission to leave the besieged territory for medical care. DEI Palestine also documents, records and keeps track of all crimes; acts of cruelty, harassment and violations of children's rights in order to raise the international community's awareness about these issues.

The NGOs, associations and services that undertake this work in Palestine are in Israel's sights. Israel seeks to conceal and/or justify its actions. The Israelis have confiscated computers on the pretext that they contained secret information, when they in fact contained private and confidential information about the associations' partners and beneficiaries. Israel's strategy is based on preventing the NGOs from working, on the one hand, and on the other depriving them of their partners (retrieving confidential data, confiscating communications devices, campaigns targeting those in the West so that they cut off all contact with the local associations).

This is why the Palestinians are calling for assertive and conscious support from their partners, not only out of solidarity, but also at the level of the political decision-makers in the international community."

Moussa Sow, Africa Regional Coordinator of Dynamo International – Street Workers network

"A negative image has built up and been developed by the media highlighting Africa's instability and "backwardness"; this has led to a fear of African nationals, and has also enshrined an image of Africans as destitute, with no autonomy, migrants on a quest for better lives. The reality is that young Africans are seeking a better life, but we have ingrained in their conscious and unconscious minds the idea that they always have a secondary role to play, and we have never offered them the opportunity to be proud to say that they could develop their continent.

Globalisation should be viewed as follows: what has been globalised and made universal? Resources, tools and skills have not been. However, poverty, precarity and social exclusion have. We have knowingly left certain countries and people on the fringes.

Street workers are well placed to know that their work does not only target the poorest communities but also the most socially-excluded people, even though they are often the same people. Both on the streets and the international stage, poverty is not just an economic issue. It is also the stigmatising view that we have of people."

Pierre Galand, President of Laïcité et Humanisme en Afrique Centrale asbl (LHAC)

"UN General Assembly: the Secretary-General stated that the dominant system is majorly responsible for the current deplorable state of the world. He was unable to say that the system is that of ultraliberal capitalism, a system that has enabled wars, is profoundly unequal, and has trampled on universal rights to healthcare, access to water, housing, justice, decent work, and democracy.

Some \$900 billion was needed over 15 years to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. \$4,000 billion was paid out in six months to sort out the 2008 financial crisis. The problem is that we are stuck in a system in which States do not keep their promises and have monetary priorities. René Dumont had already highlighted that the issue was the poor economic and environmental management of resources. We therefore need to free ourselves from this economic system at any cost. It is a system that enables some to build up wealth to the detriment of others, corrupting human relationships and strong values, such as solidarity, for example by patenting living things, leading to unequal access to vaccines during the COVID-19 crisis.

The issue of identity building also needs to be taken into account. As regards society, with increasingly cosmopolitan cities on the one hand, but also in terms of "how to design the system through internationalism." The internationalism of globalisation, the mercenary standardisation of people and cultures, should make way for the international spread of universality, putting human beings before economic priorities."

View from the floor: "Stéphane Hessel wrote "Time for Outrage!", which was an international success. However, he subsequently wrote "Get involved!", which was less successful. Activism, advocacy, all forms of struggle are destined to fail if long-term work is not undertaken. This long-term work needs to be continued, as we can't change things with a single protest."

SECOND ROUND TABLE: Social street work, a social response to social problems?

Animation:

Cis Dewaele, [SAM vzw](#)

Speakers:

- Wim Van Lancker, researcher: [wimvanlancker.be](#)

- **Anne Sophie Fontaine**, President of [Fédération Laïque de l'Aide à la Jeunesse](#) (FLAJ)
- **Luis Enrique Hernández**, Director of [El Caracol A. C.](#) (Mexico)
- **Philippon Toussaint**, President of the Community Youth Support Council
- **Bernard Devos**, General Delegate for Children's Rights

Wim Van Lancker, researcher: wimvanlancker.be:

Observation: *"In general, poverty did not increase across Europe during the COVID-19 crisis. Why? Because the European States deployed wide-ranging support measures for their populations. Structural policies and welfare state policies are needed to reduce poverty."*

However, there is a lack of data about the homeless, hard-to-reach people, the most vulnerable people, and the people who are the most challenging to include in the statistics. These are often the people who benefit the least, even sometimes not at all, from the policies implemented. They are often also the people with whom street workers work."

Experience: *"Street work has not enabled people to improve their actual living conditions. It has helped them to withstand them and has guided them, has helped them to properly undertake formalities, but has been hampered by gaps in social structural policy. For instance, for social housing, some waiting lists have a five-year wait before people can access housing."*

Street work is vital for two reasons: firstly, street workers reach out to the most vulnerable people and help them to take advantage of the policies in place. Secondly, they experience first-hand the gap between the policies being implemented and grassroots reality. They help by highlighting these gaps in order to better focus future policy. Finally, street work is not in itself a social solution to social problems. It is vital that street work is undertaken alongside structural policies and an active and responsive welfare state."

Anne Sophie Fontaine, President of [Fédération Laïque de l'Aide à la Jeunesse](#) (FLAJ)

"The role of community-based outreach services should be to guide highly vulnerable young people towards appropriate organisations and to work with young people who are "on the edge" to stop their situation from getting worse – educational prevention work (empowering and activating young people).

Young people are not solely responsible for what happens to them. They are also victims of certain mechanisms that surpass their individual responsibility and are the result of injustice generated by the system in which we live. Social prevention revolves around helping to address these mechanisms and improve this system. We need to take advantage of the existing structures to denounce and put forward alternative models."

Important points to conclude

"We are fortunate in Belgium to benefit from the third sector, public services and political leverage, enabling youth prevention policies to be rolled out. Let's stop pitting them against each other, let's make them more complementary."

The development of public prevention policies should not be viewed as public spending but instead as investment. Managing homelessness and poverty is more expensive than preventing them in the first place. Street work can make a major contribution to this educational and social prevention work."

Luis Enrique Hernández, Director of [El Caracol A. C.](#) (Mexico)

« Social street work historically deals with emerging issues that the state fails to make visible or recognize. It is very important to realize that street work takes over or knocks down the four walls of institutions. The possibility of approaching the streets directly, of approaching the neighborhoods, of approaching the public spaces where the institutions cannot access, has given us the possibility of

making visible the invisible. Over time, those of us who have become professionalized in the field of street work have been able to generate new data so that the authorities can recognize that there are phenomena that are not being addressed.

But we shouldn't just generate information. I think we also have an ethical responsibility to generate research. Of course, many of us are not academics, we are not people who have been trained on the street, but we have gradually moved closer to the academic world to learn how to conduct research. The function of social diagnosis of social street work can go further than mere observation, and can really play a role in the development of public policies.

Street education is not only educational. Community education is related to the fact that in addition to working with the population, we have to work with other educators. We need to work with the people who are involved in the development of public policy. We need to work with academics to develop new research topics. In other words, the education that street social workers promote must be aimed at the whole of society.»

Bernard Devos, General Delegate for Children's Rights:

"It is apt to talk about street social work and not street work, and it is important to specify in these terms the remit given to street social workers by politicians, because we must ensure that street social workers are not a security instrument or used to calm anger in working class areas, but rather that they are used to support the most deprived communities and foster social dialogue.

We need to talk about child poverty. When we only talk about the poor in general terms, we conceal the fact that we can take direct action on child poverty by putting in place targeted policies for this group. Among all the mechanisms which are or can be put in place to lift children out of their parents' poverty, there is street social work.

We must make rights automatic and individual. The Charter of Children's Rights incorporated two new rights in 1989, the right to expression and the right to participation. These are two fundamental rights, and are even more important given recent events. Street social workers are some of the people who can enable the least well-off young people to voice their views and take part."

Philippon Toussaint, President of the Community Youth Support Council

"Street social work, and this is why it is social and humanist, is based on a relationship with another person, with the methodological concept of "double bait": street workers firstly build a relationship with an individual, and then, potentially, it becomes a social support relationship. All street workers worldwide utilise this method, regardless of the context and the place.

"Social" work and "street social" work should not be pitted against each other; instead they complement each other. "Social" work provides a more technical, one-off response, with follow-up but without any emotional ties, whereas "street social" work will work on these bonds with people in order to effectively manage follow-up, even if it means having to support them and develop bespoke support structures for more specific needs. Consequently, it is most definitely a social solution to social problems.

Street social work has gained greater recognition since the first Words from the Street Forum in 2002. There is now even an official status for street social workers and there is acknowledgement that this type of social work is particularly effective and appropriate in certain spheres, such as youth services. However, this recognition remains fragile, because it is constantly being called into question."

CLOSING AND CONCLUSIONS of « Words from the street »

Animation:

David Lallemand, Communication Advisor to the General Delegate of the Wallonia-Brussels Federation for Children's Rights

- **Speaking up for social street workers** – Findings and Recommendations
- **Speaking up for the youth** – Findings and Recommendations

Reactions:

- **Ruth Paserman**, Director DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion at European Commission, Deputy Director-General – Funds, Fair Transition and Analysis – Funds: Programming and Implementation (EMPL.G)
- **Valérie Glatigny**, Minister for Youth Aid in the Wallonia-Brussels Federation
- **Wouter Beke**, Flemish Minister for Welfare
- **Saskia Bricmont**, Member of the European Parliament

Ruth Paserman, Director DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion at European Commission, Deputy Director-General – Funds, Fair Transition and Analysis – Funds: Programming and Implementation (EMPL.G)

"The COVID-19 pandemic has had an unprecedented and unequal impact on the education, employment, social inclusion and mental health of young people. The last 18 months have taught us a lot of lessons. I believe that we need to learn lessons from the previous crisis and do some things differently to avert the long-term effects."

Strategic youth initiatives in Europe: the Reinforced Youth Guarantee, national support for young people in diverse forms, implementation of the European Child Guarantee, European Treaty (basic set of social rights and implementation of the European strategy on children's rights). Over the next seven years, the European Social Fund+, with a budget of €99 billion, will be a key EU funding instrument supporting the rollout of the Youth Guarantee, youth employment in general, and the European Child Guarantee.

New initiative in the coming months: ALMA ("Aim, Learn, Master, Achieve" – the word means "soul" in Spanish) will offer young people not in education, employment or training (NEETs) temporary work experience in another EU state. And 2022 will be the European Year of Youth, so that we continue to reiterate that society needs to care for its young people."

Valérie Glatigny, Minister for Youth Aid in the Wallonia-Brussels Federation

The Minister for Youth Aid thanked the street social workers, while acknowledging that young people found it difficult to comply with social distancing measures that partly deprived them of social contact, which is vital for them, and that street social workers were able to maintain to some extent. *"Thanks to them, we were able to prevent young people from dropping out of education and becoming socially disengaged."*

"Social prevention is a mechanism that needs to be put in place hand in hand by associations, the political sphere and public services. Associations like community-based outreach organisations and street social workers in general undertake a social assessment which enables what needs to be done to be identified, and ensures that they listen to young people's needs in order to support them."

Another challenge is that of unaccompanied foreign minors, for whom we need to identify needs in order to offer them more effective support and deliver bespoke help to prevent them from becoming homeless or to lift them out of homelessness." She concluded by highlighting the partner services that support young people.

Wouter Beke, Flemish Minister for Welfare

The Flemish Minister for Welfare stressed that street workers are exactly where they are most needed, i.e., on the streets. *"They were always there during the coronavirus crisis, when everything was closed, when everything had ground to a halt, apart from the problems of the most vulnerable people"*

He also thanked them for their tenacious work during the same period so that even the most deprived members of society could access the vaccine.

The minister finished his keynote address by listing several policies in Flanders, including the priority implementation of Housing First, and said that he was delighted to announce that €1.5 million had just been invested in it.

Saskia Bricmont, Member of the European Parliament:

The MEP Saskia Bricmont stressed the importance of this type of initiative as part of European development. She went back over the latest initiatives taken by the European Parliament, including the Child Guarantee. More specifically, she called for our recommendations to be sent to the European website which enables the citizens of Europe to be consulted about Europe's future.

[READ THE RECOMMENDATIONS](#)

VISIBILITY AND MEDIA COVERAGE



300 participants
from different sectors



25 countries
that participated



80 organisations
from all over the world

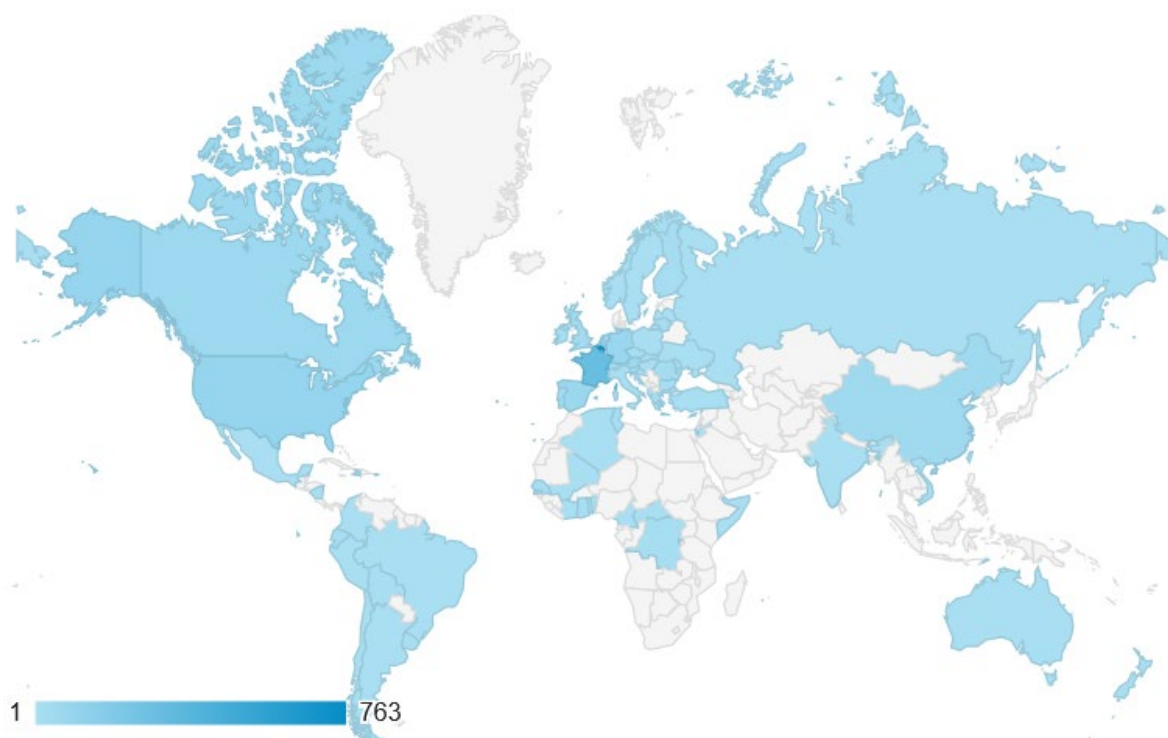


48 workshops
participatory

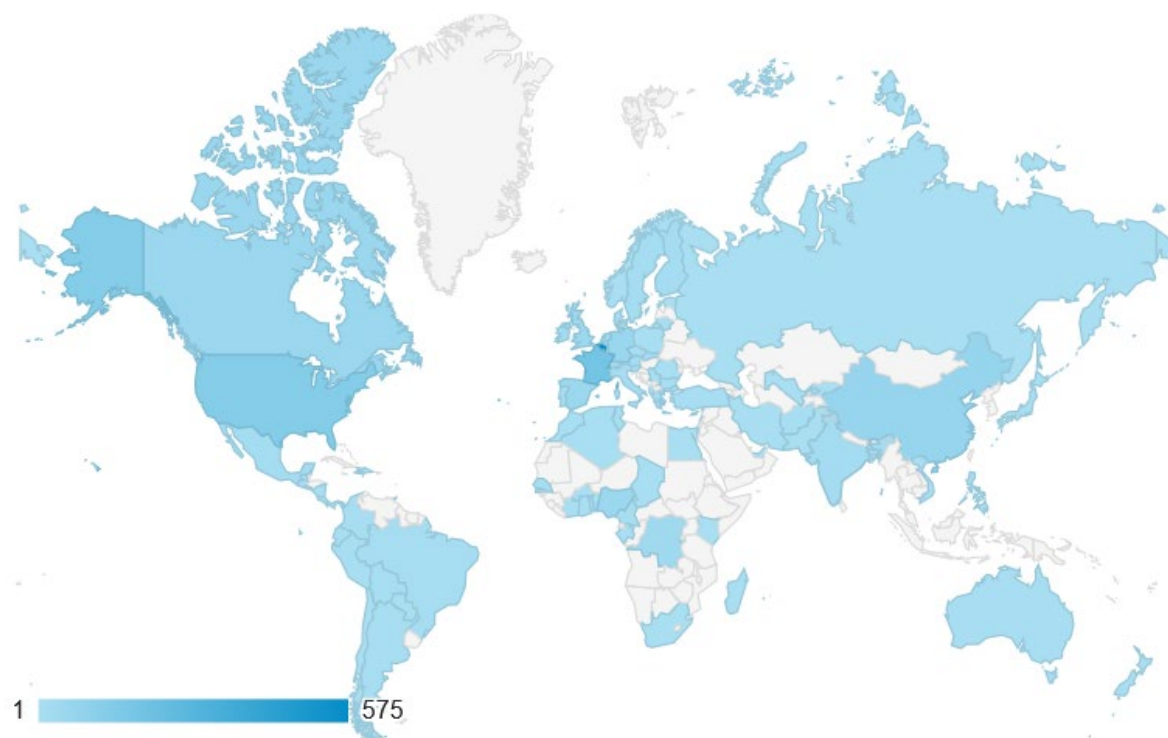
Hashtags

[#p2r21](#) [#wordsfromthestreet](#) [#streetwords](#)
[#palabrasdecalle](#) [#socialstreetwork](#) [#parolesderue](#)

Geographical origin of the traffic on wordsfromthestreet.com



Geographical origin of the traffic on dynamointernational.org



La presse en parle

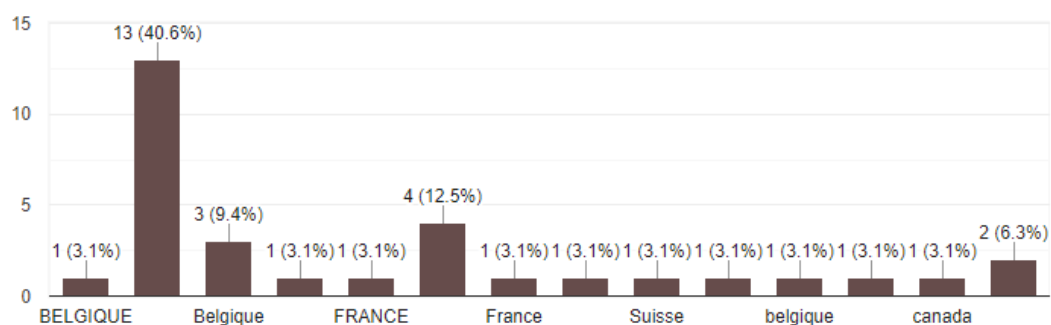
[Paroles de rue, paroles d'enfance](#) (ZOOMS CURIEUX par Gabrielle Lefèvre, le 23 octobre 2021)

FORUM EVALUATION BY PARTICIPANTS

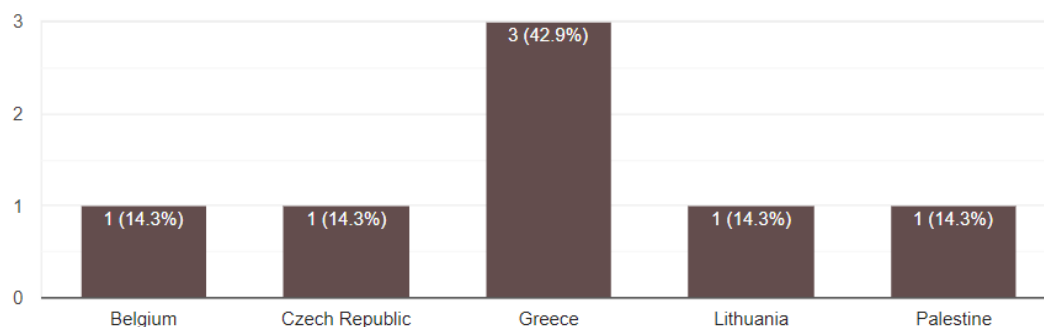
We sent an evaluation form to all the forum participants. To date, we have received 45 responses: 32 in French, seven in English, and six in Spanish.

1 - What country are you from?

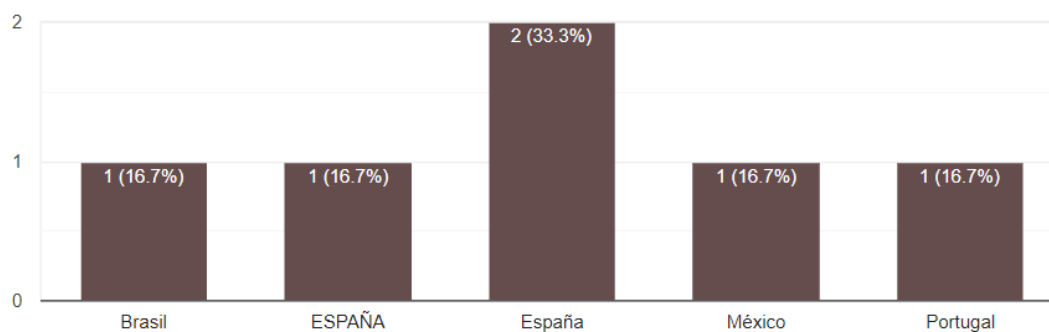
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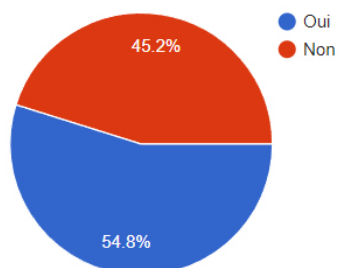


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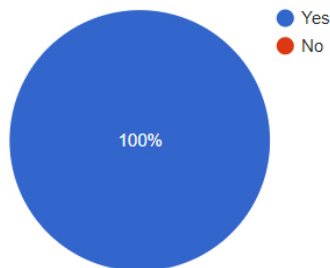


2 - Are you or your organisation a member of the international network of social street workers: Dynamo International - Street Workers Network?

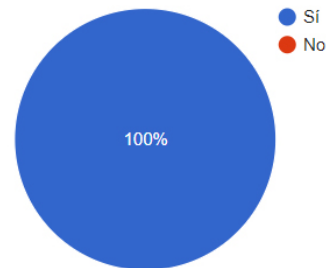
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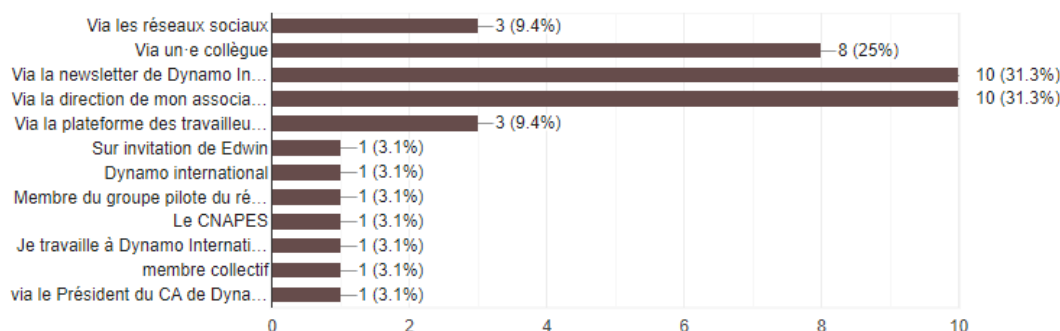


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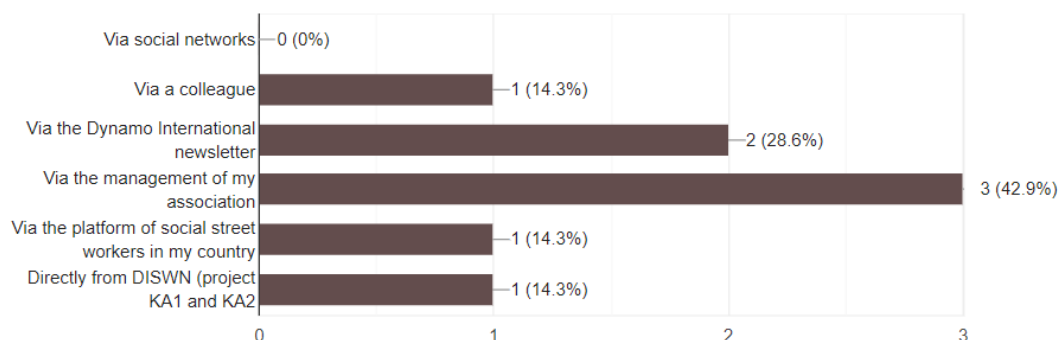


3 - How did you find out about the event?

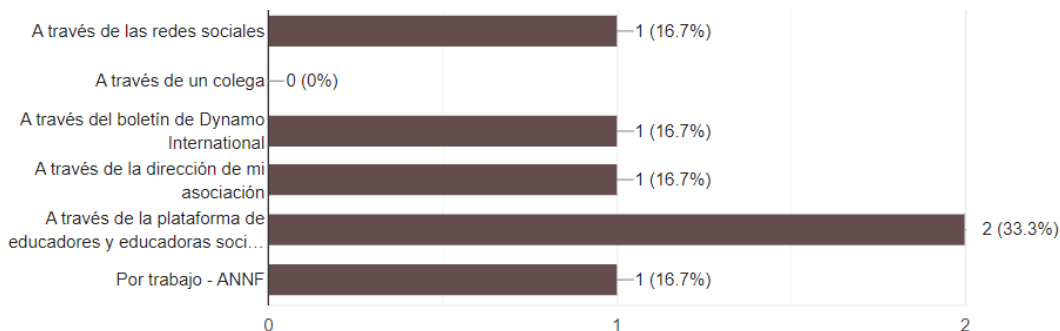
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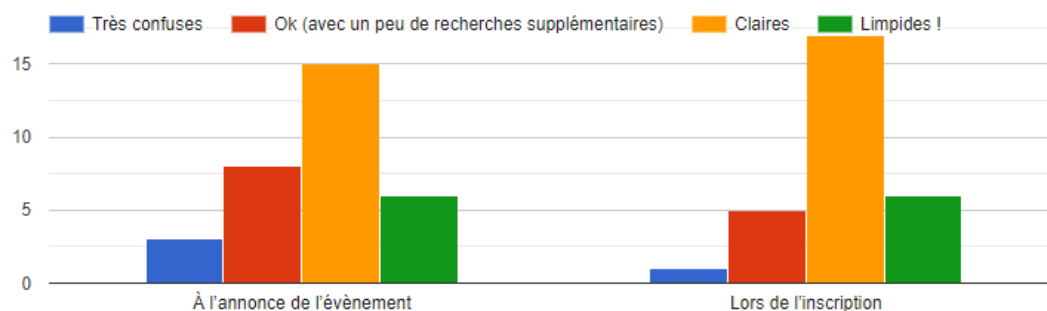


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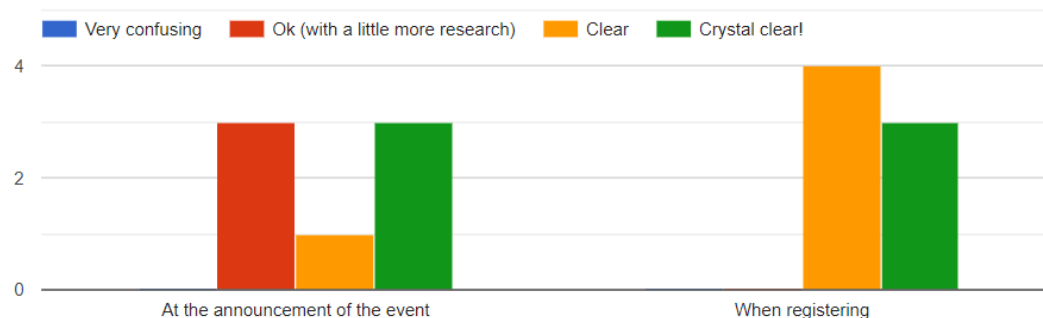


4 - Was the information provided clear?

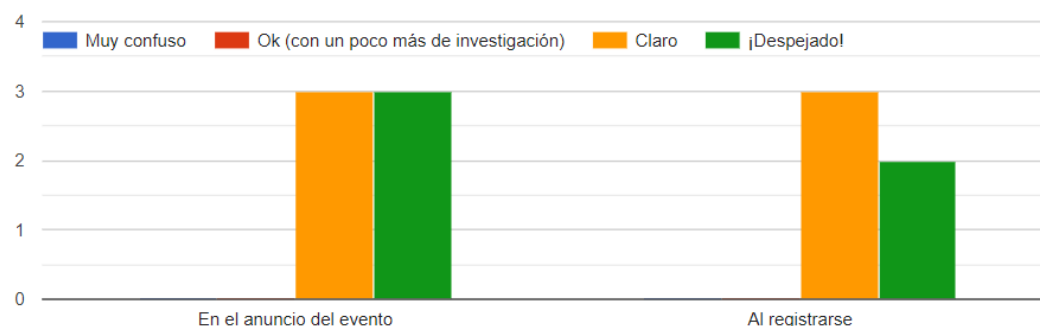
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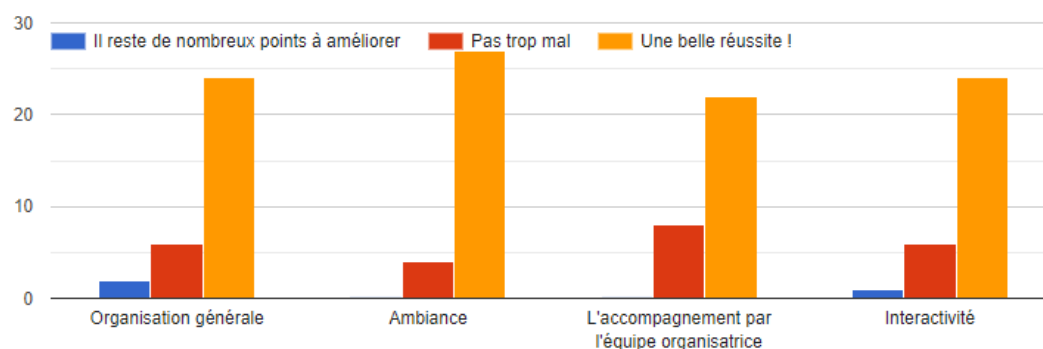


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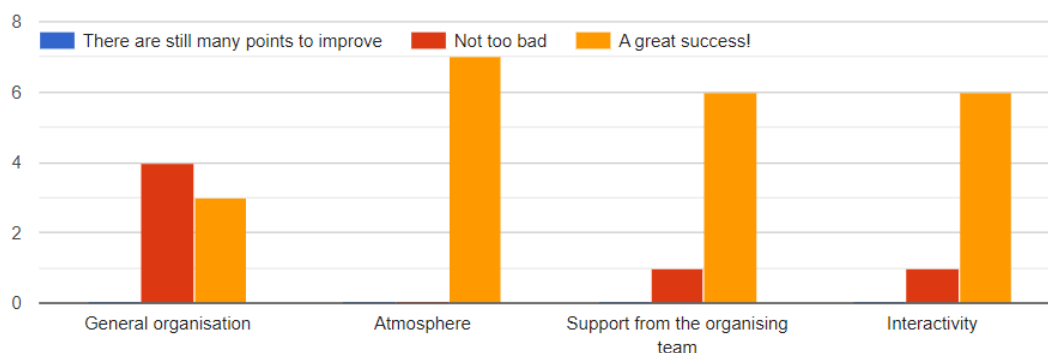


5 - How did you like the forum?

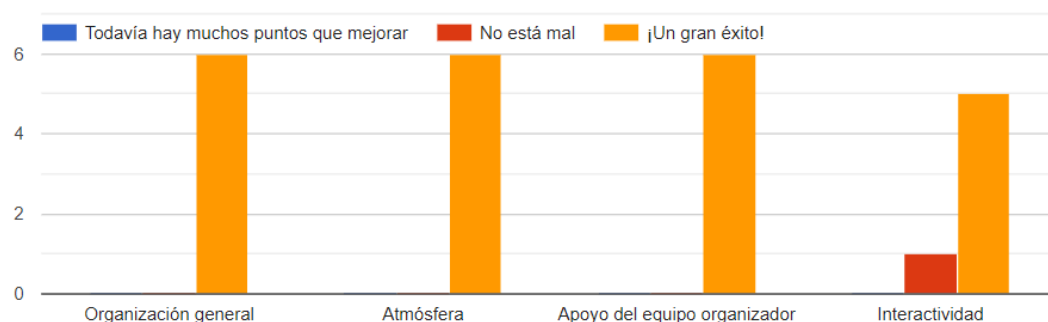
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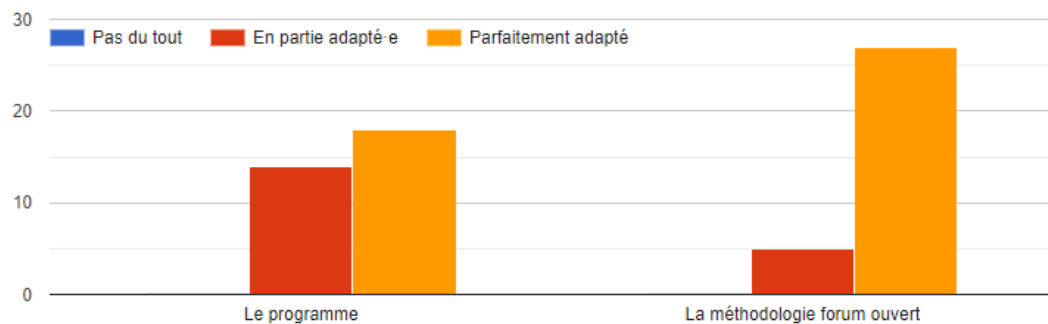


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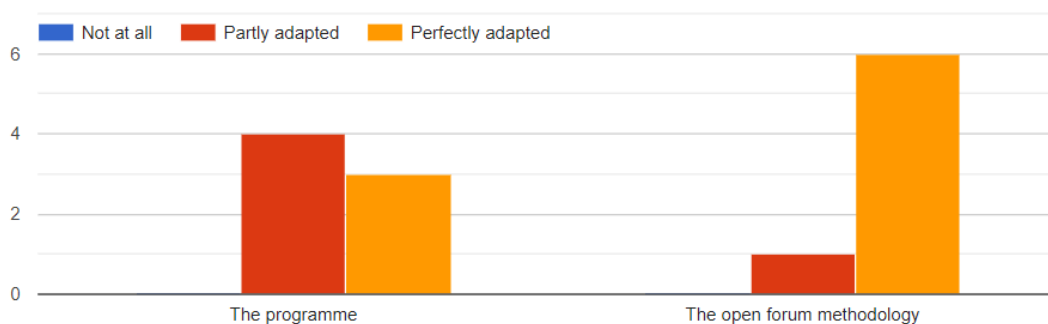


6 - Were the programme and the methodology of the forum adapted in your opinion?

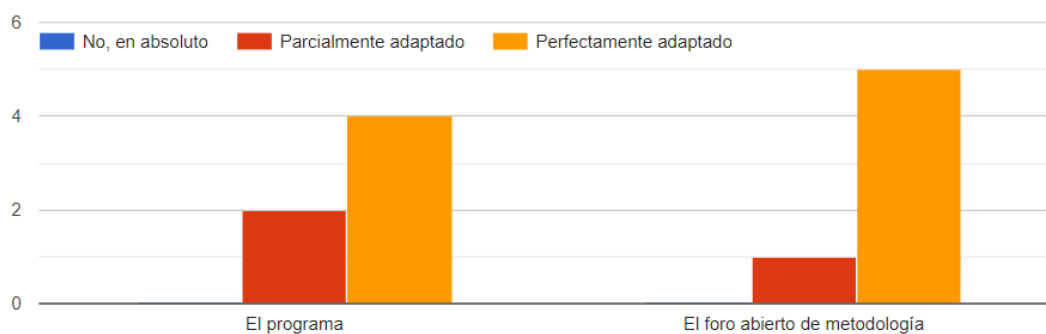
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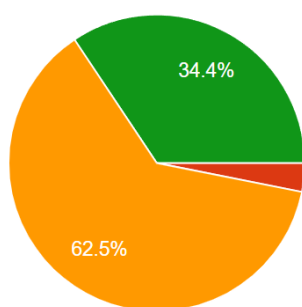


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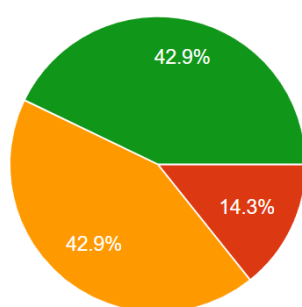
7 - How did you like the contents of the forum?

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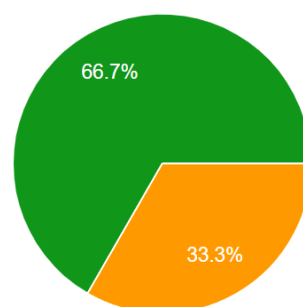
● Contenus pauvres
● En partie adaptés
● Contenus adaptés
● Parfaitement adaptés et enrichissants

- EN -



● Poor content
● Partially adapted
● Adapted content
● Perfectly adapted and enriching

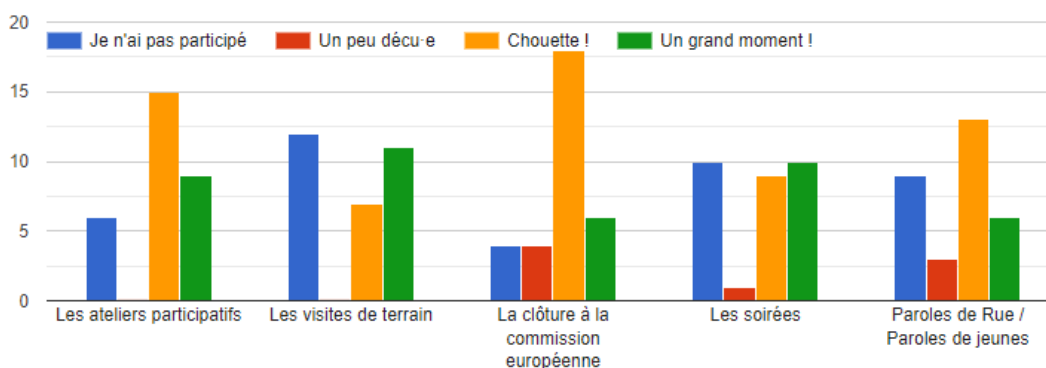
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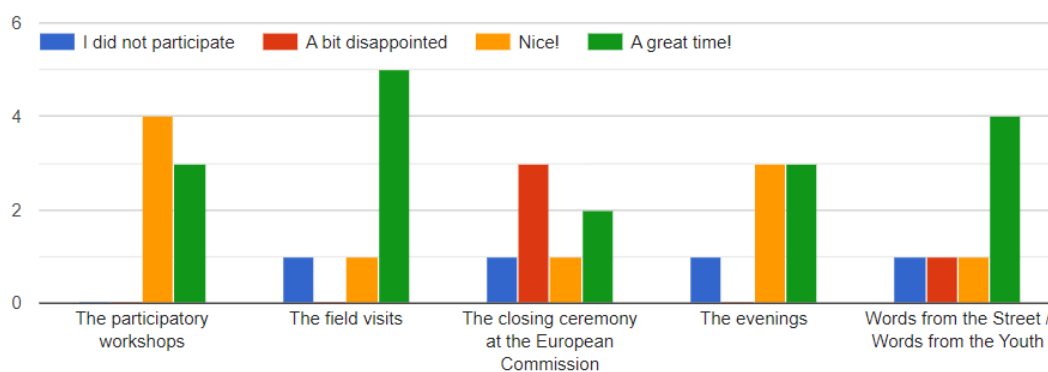
● Contenido pobre
● Parcialmente adaptado
● Contenido adaptado
● Perfectamente adaptado y enriquecedor

8 - Please note your appreciation of the different moments of the Forum.

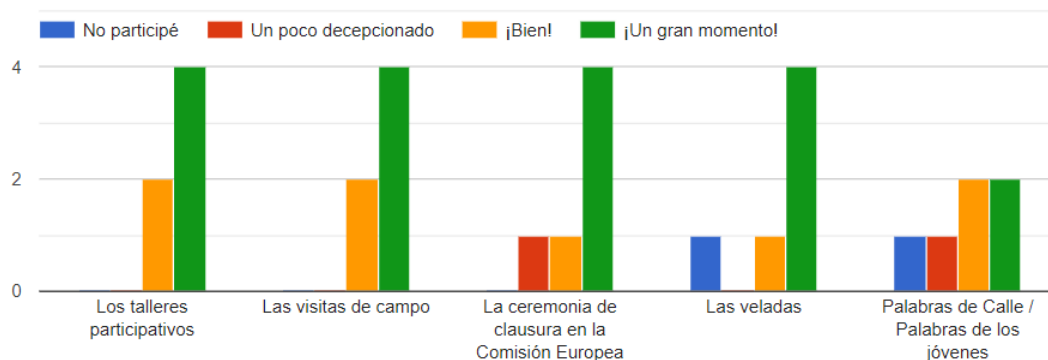
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- EN -

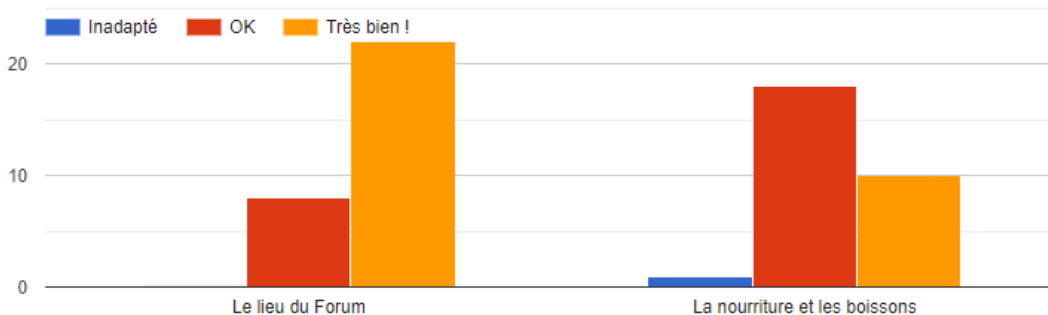


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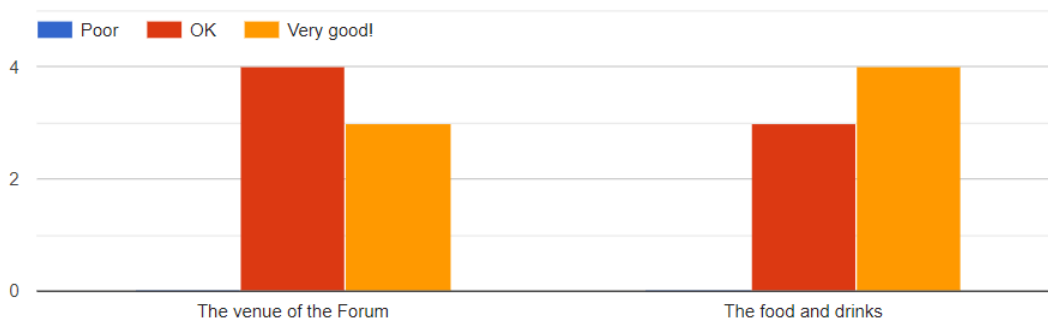


9 - Please note your appreciation of the venue and catering.

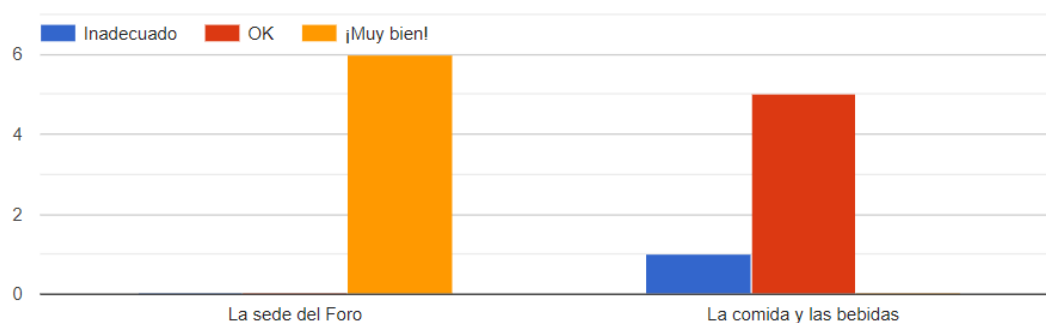
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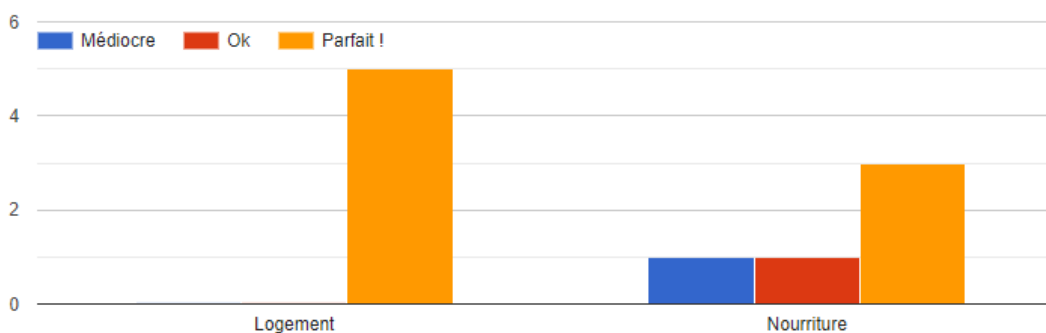


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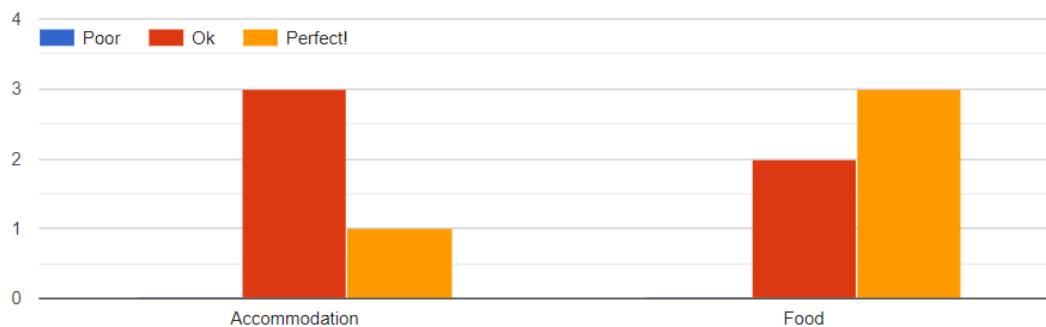


10 - For those whose accommodation was provided by Dynamo International, please rate the accommodation and food at the hostel?

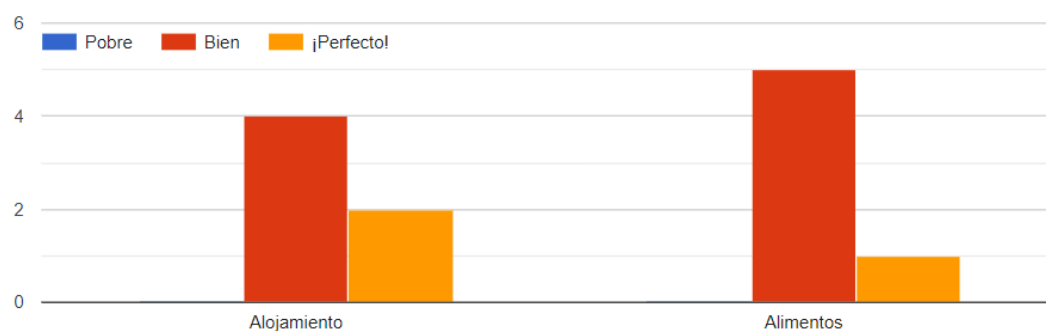
- FR -



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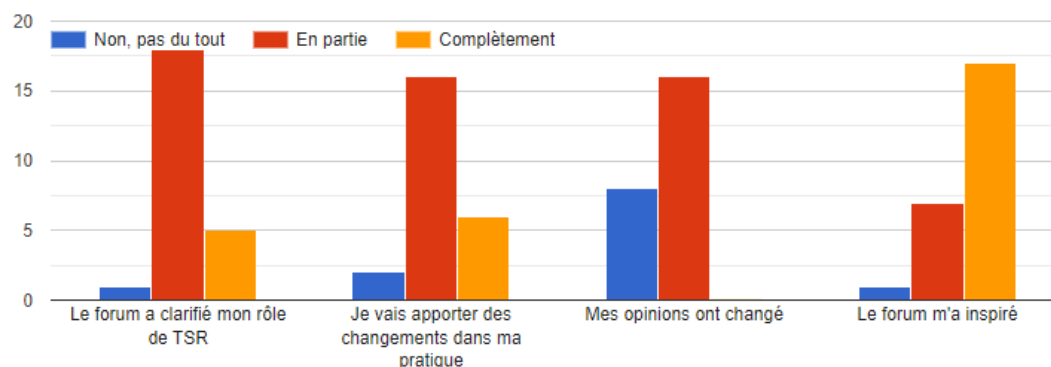


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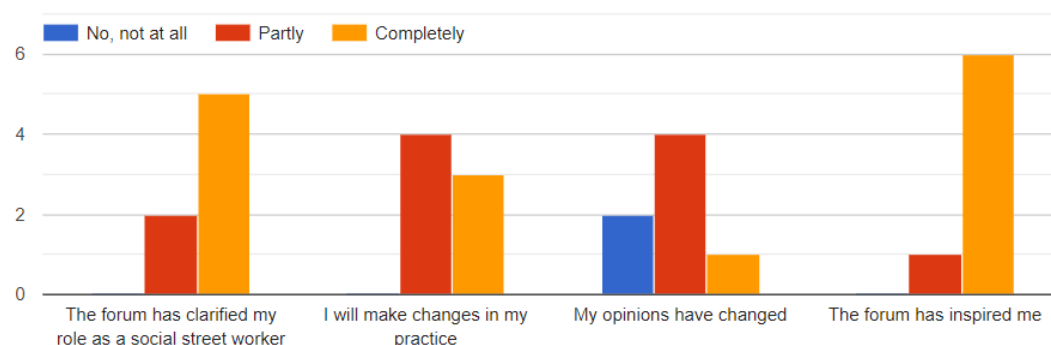


11 - Impact of the forum on your role as a social street worker?

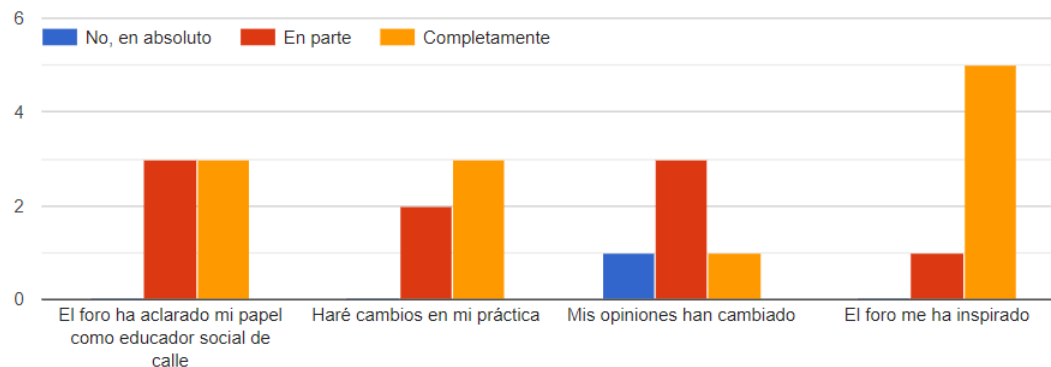
- FR -



- EN -



- ES -



12 - What do you consider to be the strong points / weak points of the forum?

- FR -

1. Excellent profile and mobilisation.
2. Human contact
3. Strong point: diversity. Weakness: it is way too long until the next one.
4. Weakness: consultation process prior to the forum with regard to organisation – difficult to mobilise the street social workers without any information about the programme or being involved in its development.
5. For the KA2 project (youth), the participation method was not appropriate (timeframe was too long, not enough information about content, timeframes for supplying information too late in the day) making it very difficult to mobilise young people.

6. Strength: a truly interactive forum, multi-faceted and diverse programme.
7. Weak points: Those unable to come to Brussels could not follow the meeting online. Sandwich lunch throughout the forum. Non-involvement of MEPs and other European elected representatives at the European Commission.
8. Strengths: open forum with a wide range of themed workshops. Forum organisational framework. Good ambience and organisational flexibility.
9. Great open forum! Hard to choose between the field visits and discussion sessions (can't be in two places at once).
10. Weakness: Organisation, lack of prior preparation.
11. Strength: participatory, interaction, field visits
12. Vibrant discussions and range of spaces in which to discuss issues.
13. Very wide-ranging (discussions with street workers from all backgrounds/ but short (packed programme forced participants to make sometimes difficult choices). At times a tight schedule for some field visits.
14. Weakness: a feeling that the open forum concept (and advocacy with group work) was not clear on the website. I was a bit sorry that I had not registered for at least four days.
15. Strength: the idea of slightly losing your bearings (being out of your comfort zone) in this "open forum" concept. This pushes boundaries. Area for improvement: prior preparation. Strengths: group cohesion.
16. Meeting with other street workers from other countries and other sectors.
17. Diversity of the participants, diverse programme.
18. Weak points: language issue (little interpreting, communication between the participants was difficult)/ Personal accounts from the various continents would have been interesting at the start of the week to draw inspiration and incorporate important issues into the recommendations.
19. Strengths: how the week developed, different options, building around recommendations, very pleasant organising team.
20. Open forum/visits
21. Strong point: Field visits (the selected organisations were great and the discussions were very worthwhile) and the evenings (a great chance to meet people and evoke shared ideas on how to improve our respective practices).
22. Weak point: No street visits and I would have liked a "one-on-one" discussion session with street workers to chat about our respective situations with the aim of really being able to imagine what life is like in their shoes. A bit like speed dating for street workers.
23. Strength: well-organised meeting.
24. Don't know.
25. Meeting others, open-minded attitude, discussions.
26. Meeting and chatting with other professionals from other countries.

- EN -

1. The atmosphere of building street workers identity. The weak point was language translations
2. Almost everything was in French. Not easy if you don't speak french
3. Coming together is always strong point.
4. Multiculturalism and exchange of opinions while coming from different backgrounds
5. Field visits was the best point of the forum, maybe the too many similar discussions at the workshops was the weak point
6. The best: Meeting real people in real life. Field visits.

- ES -

1. Strengths: the mix of countries, ages, profiles, participatory methodology.
2. Strengths: democratic participation; weak points: the coincidence of countries exhibiting the penultimate day - prevented us from knowing the realities of each country.
3. Strengths - the participatory model and collaborative practices; weak points - the poorly worked and unguided way in which the recommendations were drafted for the European Commission and presentation to the Commissioners did not show all the work done and the general ideas.
4. Interaction with educators from other countries.
5. A problem that cannot be solved to the total satisfaction of all present is that of translation and intercultural integration. It was done very well as much as possible, but in participatory workshops, for

example, it was not always easy to understand or be understood. But I think it has more to do with the multilingual environment and not with the "mismanagement" of the situation. I think they did very well!

6. Strengths: Diversity, commitment, organization.

13 - Do you have any suggestions for the next forum in 5 or 10 years?

- FR -

1. Give more floor time to young people.
2. Do it more often.
3. Enable the national and regional platforms to be more involved in forum content development well in advance so as to foster mobilisation.
4. Not at this stage.
5. Ditto.
6. Set up an "information desk", use microphones to announce that field visits are leaving, have a more structured session for young people in order to enhance it.
7. Keep the same format, but consider having broad-based topics.
8. Extend to the weekend for those able to stay?
9. Hold another forum within four years.
10. Work with Collectiva.
11. Carry on!
12. More room for non-Belgian/non-EU participants.
13. More precise information about the week prior to the forum. A contact person who sends out information (beforehand). A contact person for follow-up. List of participants. The keynote speakers were a real source of inspiration for me. In my view, it was a shame that the presentations were delivered at the end of the week.
14. More interpreting.
15. The possibility of the forum leading to staff training mobility for those in the ERAMUS programme.
16. Street visits and a "one-on-one" discussion session with street workers to chat about our respective situations with the aim of really being able to imagine what life is like in their shoes. A bit like speed dating for street workers.
17. Greater representativeness.
18. No
19. More space for target populations (service users).

- EN -

1. Make it more often!
2. More languages
3. Having more people from the street.
4. Would prefer more workshops in English
5. More field visits and activities in general, better organized discussion from all the members.
6. Organize a virtual meeting approx. 1,5 months before the event for the members of Dynamo (especially if there will be similar project like Erasmus+ KA1, KA2), including the regional coordinators. To prepare for the gathering, ask questions, organize. Might make things go smoother :-))

- ES -

1. Do not wait more than 5 years
2. No
3. If you could get more participation from countries outside of Europe that would be great, especially more participation from Latin America and Africa would be interesting. I understand that due to the pandemic situation it was not possible, but I believe that the intercultural approach is very important and very enriching!

4. Be more open to other social, educational and health practices. Street work can inspire them, but it is a small area, it is necessary to broaden its scope and transversality. Why not go to the teachers for example? Or social workers ... or law enforcement ...

14 - Do you have anything to add?

- FR -

1. No
2. Thank you for the welcome.
3. I LOVED IT
4. Thank you for organising the forum.
5. A great first forum for me. Thank you! Motivated me to get involved in Dynamo France.
6. Thank you for everything.
7. Is there an app that would enable us to stay in touch with everyone between meetings? A social media-type app or even better (if appropriate) a Discord-type server (if you are interested, we could discuss it further!).
8. Well done 😊
9. Excellent organisation!
10. It would be worthwhile finding a way of helping forum participants to stay in touch.
11. I would like to have all the contact information and join the national network.
12. I'm a fan!

- EN -

1. No
2. Just a big thank you for having us :)
3. Thank you so much for organizing this event! I know it had to be so difficult because of the pandemic. I really do appreciate your hard work and effort. Thanks to the whole team and all volunteers who took part. THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU :--))

- ES -

1. In general congratulations to all
2. No
3. Thank all the attention, preparation, and commitment of everyone involved, especially those of Dynamo. They have gone far beyond what they had to simply do their job. A great event in very difficult circumstances. It is quite an achievement. Congratulations! And see you next time!
4. Thanks for the effort

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RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations issued by street social workers

1. GENERAL – STREET SOCIAL WORK

Street social work, an essential instrument in the accompaniment of people, has an intrinsic political dimension and a vision of open, inclusive and solidarity society. The third 'Words from the Street' Forum was an opportunity to reflect on our role as street social workers, not only in terms of good practices, but also to make our voice heard in the political debate.

- We recommend recognizing street social work as a central part of the system of guarantee and exercise of human rights, as well as a specific and necessary practice in the construction of social cohesion. This work must be considered essential especially in times of crisis, for its ability to contact people in break-up, and for its adaptive and efficient method, centered on the relationship and not on a logic of problem/solution (or performance/result).
- In the Member States, the recognition of social street work should be given concrete form, with a legal framework that defines its tasks; we advocate that our work is not part of a logic of security and control of public order.
- For street social work to make sense, it is necessary to give priority to long-term funding. It is too often linked to ephemeral programs, which deprive social work of its nature.
- In order to professionalize our profession, it is necessary to think about and build training in social work on the street, both in the higher study paths, and in the offer of training for workers.

2. EDUCATION

- Street social work is a fundamental tool for the promotion and protection of human rights, yet it is necessary to consider it as part of the education system.
- Schools and educational spaces must be inclusive, open, flexible and able to adapt continuously to the circumstances and needs of communities, promoting social cohesion and fluidity between different educational spaces.
- It is necessary to develop school systems that are attentive to the specific needs of each student, especially those who are part of vulnerable populations.
- In this regard, we invite the Member States to follow and implement the principles contained in the International Convention on the Child (Art. 28,29)

3. GENDER

- We support the European Union in its work to raise awareness and fight discrimination on the basis of gender identity and sexual orientation. As workers in the field, we observe the risks and suffering caused by these discriminations; an effort for an inclusive society respectful of all identities is necessary at all levels of power, unfortunately trends in the opposite direction continue to take hold in some Member States
- It is therefore important to support civil society organisations and education and social professionals in the development of programmes to promote the rights related to the diversity of gender identity and sexual orientation, and in the fight for gender equality.

4. MIGRATION, DISCRIMINATION, RIGHTS OF MARGINALIZED AND STREET POPULATIONS

Among the people we accompany are particularly vulnerable groups who are on the margins of society. Some live on the street or are 'in street situations'. For example, migrants - especially undocumented - and refugees regularly face serious difficulties in terms of access to adequate housing, health care, education and work.

- We reiterate that social services must be easily accessible to everyone, including those in street situations, and that they form part of a comprehensive plan that can guarantee their rights.
- We believe it is important for the European Ombudsman (EU Ombudsman) to play a more central role in defending the rights of people in street situations.

5. HOUSING

The right to housing is a fundamental human right: we strongly recommend that the European Union encourage Member States to implement policies according to these principles:

- Housing for young people in extreme poverty as a preventive measure against homelessness and wandering
- A courageous, coherent and adapted social housing policy with the aim of making decent housing available to people, especially in deprived neighbourhoods.
- Implementation of rent control and fight, also through preventive actions, against property speculation and other practices limiting the supply of affordable housing. These measures should include, for example, the occupation and adaptation of empty buildings for the creation of housing and the regulation of para-hotel platforms (e.g. AirBnB)
- Provide specific support to young people with low incomes who buy their first homes.
- Combating discrimination against minorities (e.g. migrants) in access to social housing.

6. PUBLIC SPACE

The public space, as we, the street social workers, conceive it, is above all a meeting place, as a place of life, as "agora" for the inhabitants, is a space of citizenship, exchange and play, which allows us to get in touch with our audiences.

- We request that we think about and make these spaces live by taking into account particularly vulnerable audiences (women, girls, drug users, homeless, young people...) too often excluded from the equation.
- Faced with the ubiquity of digital service spaces, we recommend maintaining open physical reception spaces so that this dematerialization of media and services does not result in the exclusion of vulnerable audiences from access to rights and information, to health, ...

7. DRUGS AND ADDICTIONS

- We recommend that addiction be considered a public health issue, sometimes a mental health issue, not a crime issue.
- We advocate decriminalization of drug users. We insist on strengthening social work to take care of users as a whole. Addiction is often only the symptom of a deeper evil being. Countries that have chosen to decriminalize, such as Portugal, with risk reduction policies, are achieving results that are consistent with our vision in the right direction.
- We recommend increasing the number of places that promote these reductions, such as safe consumption rooms, needle exchanges, etc.

Recommendations issued during the regional workshops

Europe

We call on the European Union:

- Within the framework of the revised European Social Charter of the Council of Europe, to encourage Member States to adopt the related collective complaint protocol. Currently, only 15 states have adopted it.
- To ratify the European Convention on Human Rights.

- To provide for an adversarial procedure between the Member States, civil society and the European Union on the implementation of the European Social Rights pillar.
- To develop a strategy of direct communication with the citizens of the Member States.
- To consider the societal impacts of digital on Social Rights.
- To strengthen its unity and increase cooperation between intergovernmental bodies by prioritising the interests of the European population.

America

- There is a need for a Human Rights approach in any programme rather than a needs-based approach, which dehumanizes and strengthens welfare rather than empowerment.
- There is a need to combat intensively the stigmatization of street populations and other discriminated populations (LGBTQ+, migrants, indigenous people, travel people, etc.)
- A Pan-American Monitoring, Monitoring and Evaluation Policy Body should be set up to report on the respect of human rights in each country.
- The role of social and human rights defender in the practice of street educators (street social workers) should be recognized.

Africa

- African states must fund social services/NGOs/associations that raise awareness of migration issues among young and old.
- Young people should be taken into account in their specificities, beliefs, values, vision, problems and their migration path, among others.

Asia

- An International Follow Up, Monitoring and Evaluation Policy Body should be set up to report on respect for the Rights of the Child in each country.

Recommendations issued by youth

This week, we too had our say in the Forum, as young people. During one afternoon, we gathered among young people from Brussels from different neighborhoods. Normally, we would meet with young Europeans, but because of Covid, all this was cancelled. It is a bit sad, but we were able to meet street workers from all over the world. As a result, we were able to show them the ideas and projects that we carry out here.

For example, young people in the Merlo neighbourhood showed a film they made to highlight the stereotypes that people have about young people. The girls who attend Dynamo AMO Ixelles came to explain the functioning of their 100% girls group that sets up activities made by girls for girls.

Subsequently, a question and answer session was held with workers from all over the world. We were able to learn a little more about them, about their work and why they loved doing it so much. We were also able to answer their questions and explain to them how we young people perceive adults and that as long as we are treated with respect and understanding, everything goes well.

After the questions and answers, we were able to express ourselves about the ideas and recommendations that the workers had come up with during the first two days of the forum. We did this through a moving activity of debate and we were able to see that sometimes our visions of the street and its organization were different. But this is normal: after all, they are adult workers and we are young people, so we see things differently. But here, the difference is a wealth to be exploited to improve our relations. With the debate, we were able to understand each other better.

Finally, we said that recommendations from workers are good, but that recommendations from young people are better. So there have been some proposals put forward that would improve the public

space for young people. So we immediately thought we would ban racism and prejudice, which seems obvious to us, and we let you think about how to implement it quickly.

Otherwise, more concretely:

Mutual aid and solidarity should be further developed. For example, to create more associations or shelters for young people, but also for homeless people or people who are harassed. We know that there are already, but not enough. The goal of all this solidarity would be for everyone to feel good about their life.

Second, there should also be more infrastructure in the public space, for example:

- Have free public washrooms
- More green spaces with even more benches, table tennis tables and play areas
- Developing urban farms and vegetable gardens
- Develop sports spaces
- Or develop a free public Wi-Fi network for all

And since we thought of everything, we could renovate vacant or abandoned buildings to gain space.

We should also develop a more correct security. We think that safety is important, but we have to strike a balance and get rid of certain stereotypes so that safety is the same for everyone.

We also think that the way of living one's religion should not be a barrier to going to school or simply being in the public space.

Finally, much more attention should be paid to the financial situation of young people. We should make all schools free so that everyone can get the education they want. Develop affordable housing for young people and more accessible and cost-of-living supports.

Thank you for listening to us. These recommendations are only a small part of youth, but we hope they will give you some food for thought. And if you still need more ideas, don't hesitate to ask us, the social workers know where to find us. After all, it's always better when we work together, right?

More recommendations from young people

1. Robot that gives you unlimited food when you walk
2. Free connection everywhere
3. Accept the trainings
4. Accepting religious signs in public space
5. Free school
6. Free unlimited Wi-Fi
7. Proper security (feeling safe – but without abuse by authorities)
8. Skatepark
9. More respect
10. No more free public toilets
11. Organize parties every Saturday
12. More youth centres
13. Renovate the buildings
14. Creating more space for sport
15. Organize more extracurricular activities
16. Waste Collection
17. Organize farm activities – farm in town –
18. No more vegetable garden
19. Visit neighbourhoods, learn their stories
20. Amusement Park
21. A castle

22. Brand store at -80%
23. A free bank
24. Free concert every day
25. Free hairdressers
26. Increase in wages
27. Pollution control trucks
28. No more compulsory school
29. Remove all the wrong people
30. Housing the poor
31. Allow the wearing of headscarves at school
32. Open a pool in Forest
33. Helping everyone in need
34. Accompanying and caring for harassed persons
35. Banning racism
36. Prohibit bias
37. More neighbourhood houses
38. Lower cost of living
39. More activities for more solidarity between young people and adults
40. Park layout (table, table tennis, etc.)
41. Of the babyfooters
42. Football days a few days a week
43. Buses that lead directly to places
44. Help people in need, do everything to make everyone feel good



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