

## **Press Statement for Immediate Release**

### **European Chief Executives and Presidents impressed by Luxembourg Youth Work**

The European Confederation of Youth Clubs (ECYC) arrived this weekend hosted by the Youth club federation from Luxembourg “Daachverband vun de Letzebuerger Jugendklibb asbl”. Chief executives and presidents from all over Europe came together in Luxembourg to explore Luxembourg’s valuable work with young people, share their own practices and discuss the developments for open youth work within the new European Frameworks being discussed in the coming years by EU Member States, the new European Commission and European Parliament.

During their visit they explored a number of youth clubs, youth houses, youth services and met with Claude Meisch, Youth Minister from Luxembourg. They were left impressed by the creativity and diversity of Luxembourg’s approaches to open youth work which has proven invaluable to the personal, social and emotional development of Luxembourg’s young people.

The delegation met with representatives from the ministry of education youth and childhood with questions and discussions focussing on the upcoming EU trio presidency and the priorities to be placed on youth and open youth work. Maurice Losch, President of the Luxembourgish youth club federation, *“It’s important that we find a space for young people and youth organisations to become central to discussions and decisions during this EU trio presidency. It holds great potential for the inclusion of Luxembourg’s youth associations in decision making processes. We encourage our Youth Minister to continue to support youth organisations and their demands.”*

During this weekend there was also serious discussions taking place behind the scenes with ECYC’s newly elected bureau members meeting in person for the first time since their election. Vibrant and full discussions were had on the organisations 4 year strategy plan and the current drivers for open youth work and the relation to ECYC’s work.

*“The fragile financial situation in Europe in past years, that saw a lot of downsizing and budget cuts, gave rise to many difficulties for the European youth work sector in representing and advocating youth work needs from an EU standpoint. This subsequently impacted our abilities to achieve concrete results. Today we have to approach the tasks with realism and optimism, a firm focus on results and a strong conviction that good performance will enhance the reputation of open youth work in Europe and lead to long lasting positive*

*changes. With this new trio presidency we have to continue to tackle the formidable challenges that ahead for youth work and young people in Europe.”*Rares Craiut, Secretary General, European Confederation of Youth Clubs.

**Footnote:**

European Confederation of youth clubs is an international NGO, umbrella organisation est 1978, specialising in the development and promotion of open youth work across Europe. Currently it has 17 members from European and EEA countries and reaches 1.2 million young people across Europe. The bureau has been elected at the annual general assembly in Finland in June 2014 and stand for a two year term as a voluntary board.

The Youth club federation from Luxembourg “DVLJ - Daachverband vun de Letzebuerger Jugendklibb asbl” is one of the largest youth movements in Luxembourg regrouping all the 140 Youth clubs in Luxembourg and representing their members on in policy issues on national and European level through DVLJ membership in ECYC.

Open Youth Work is a methodology of working with young people in a way that allows them to lead and direct their own learning and development with the support of youth workers often professionally trained or local volunteers. It works with young people from their own identified starting point and young people grow and develop their skills through youth clubs socialisation with peers and opportunities to display initiative and leadership.

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