GUIDELINES

FOR

YOUTH WORKERS

WORKING WITH

DIGITAL MEDIA

TRACES

SUPPORTING YOUTH TO MANAGE THEIR DIGITAL & SOCIAL MEDIA PRESENCE

Erasmus+

SEAL CYPRUS

The Rural Hub

innoventum

ATTITUDE AND ETHICS

- Cultivate an agile mindset and be open to experimentation.
- Adapt offline practice fundamentals and decision-making procedures of youth work into digitalized environments, while keeping in mind the challenges they entail.
- Get educated and keep in mind the risks associated with online environments and keep professional relationships and boundaries with young people.
- Empower young people and helps them know and defend their rights.
- Promote critical thinking and guide young people to practice it in taking control of their relationship with digital and social media and technology.
- Maintain balance: Know when it is appropriate to use social media and when traditional youth work approaches are more appropriate.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND PRACTICE

- Strive for continuous professional development and training opportunities to acquire new skills.
- Experiment with different digital and social media tools, platforms and technologies and focus on how they can benefit youth work in order to make informed choices.
- Use innovative methodologies to introduce young people to digital and social media, tools and technologies and involve them in the evaluation process of the tools and technologies you select.
- Engage in peer-learning, knowledge-sharing and international collaboration.
- Deliver Digital Youth Work based on young people's needs and realities. Always prioritise young people's rights, safety, accessibility and enjoyment.
- Facilitate enquiry-based learning by enabling young people and youth workers to discuss and explore the possibilities of digital and social media and technologies together.

DIGITAL VALIDATION OF LEARNING

- Set the emphasis on the authentication of learning and acquired skills.
- Use digital validation tools that promote the demonstration of experience and ability of young people and youth workers, such as Youthpass and Open Badges.
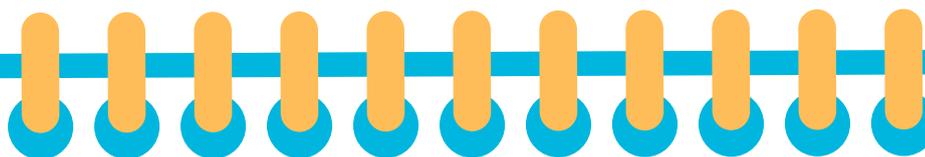
As with all tools, digital tools and resources have the possibility to be used in a variety of ways and in different contexts. In this context, the attitude demonstrated holds a significant role in the efficient use of each tool and resource. Within the framework of Digital Youth Work, an agile and open-minded attitude is needed when working with digital and media tools and technologies in order to achieve a grip on youth. Youth Work, and Digital Youth York in particular, needs to evolve as young people evolve, and to respond to their needs based on their realities. Ethics also play a critical role, most importantly maintaining a balance between the use of digital and social media and traditional youth work practices.

Additionally, professional development of youth workers should be the main aim of all trainings in the field of Digital Youth Work. Always encourage and enable other youth workers to practice new tools and acquired knowledge. For this reason, a common approach and quality training models are needed in Digital Youth Work. Moreover, the digital validation of learning showcases and increases the recognition of the impact of Digital Youth Work.

These Guidelines can be used by youth organisations and youth workers for quick reference in relation to the topics of Digital Citizenship and Digital Youth Work.

🌐 https://www.tracesproject.online/

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