



Youth Employability Competences

Embedding a Youth Work approach in the Advisory Board



Background

Four of the partners of the YEC project organised and ran both employer and youth Advisory Board sessions. Facilitators were encouraged to embed a youth work approach into the advisory boards

Embedding a Youth Work Approach

- At the introductory meeting the core values of youth work were outlined to the participants, and all encouraged to hold these in mind
- The advisory group was promoted as a method of empowerment for young people to take a stance on employment issues that affect them and other young people in similar situations to themselves
- Encouraging the view of the facilitators and young people being partners in the learning process, and that the learning was going both ways
- For young people to see clearly how their ideas and suggestions for change were recorded and included in the work of the project
- Implementing non-formal education methods, making clear that there was no obligation on the young people to take part in any activities that they were not comfortable doing
- Facilitators making the effort to check in with the young people throughout the meeting particularly with those that were not as vocal as others
- Facilitators voicing their appreciation of the contribution to the project of the participants
- Facilitators to make efforts to work within the young people's schedules when arranging meetings
- Use of ice breakers and exercises to encourage trust, peer bonding and confidence
- Clear explanations to participants about expectations and goals of the project, giving participants choices around how to structure meetings
- Interactive, participant led discussions
- For merged employer and youth meetings, encouraging young people to take ownership and share their experiences, to be the experts in terms of young people's experience
- To have a number of members on the employers' board who work with young people and consequently who have experience of different ways to support this approach

