LIFE LONG LEARNING WEEK 2016

10-13 OCTOBER 2016
BRUSSELS
IN & AROUND THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT
The Lifelong Learning Platform (LLLP) will be holding its 6th Lifelong Learning Week (LLLWeek) from 10th October to 13th October 2016 in Brussels, this year in partnership with the European Youth Forum. The LLLWeek has over time become a milestone in the European education agenda, thanks to the support of civil society actors and of Members of the European Parliament. The idea is to bring together learners and educators, field workers and policy-makers, thinkers and political representatives and give them the opportunity to discuss today’s greatest educational challenges.

Why a lifelong learning week?
Lifelong learning covers education and training across all ages and in all areas of life. It shall enable citizen’s emancipation and full participation in society in its civic, political, social and economic dimensions. A humanistic and holistic approach of learning, from the cradle to the grave, is of continued relevance in today’s world and a viable foundation for the rethinking of education. The Lifelong Learning Week aims to raise awareness on the fact that lifelong learning answers many challenges of modern societies. Fostering a comprehensive approach to education is especially important when it comes to building learning societies, by making sure that our citizens are fully equipped with the competences they need in the 21st Century. The paradigm shift to lifelong learning means recognising that learning is taking place in various contexts - be it formal, non-formal and informal. It implies changing the ways we teach and learn, the ways we assess learning and the ways we work and live together.

The LLLWeek2016
The Lifelong Learning Week 2016 will tackle key challenges that have impacted educational policies and actors in the current months such as the impact of the economic and social crisis, the migration flow, the terrorist attacks, and the growth of far right movements. The LLL Week will be organised around three main strands:

• Learning to live together
• 21st Century Skills
• Flexible learning pathways

Partnering with the European Youth Forum
Building on the long-standing partnership between the Lifelong Learning Platform and the European Youth Forum, and on the successful experience of the European Youth Forum’s previous editions of the “Education Week”, this year the LLLWeek will be run in partnership with the European Youth Forum. The LLLWeek2016 is also supported by the Youth Intergroup and the Lifelong Learning Interest Group.

Celebrating creative and inclusive initiatives in lifelong learning with the LLLAwards
In 2016 the Lifelong Learning Platform launches a new Lifelong Learning Award to celebrate creative and inclusive practices during its Lifelong Learning Week. The aim of the Lifelong Learning Award is to give visibility to innovative practices taking place all over Europe in order to attract public attention on lifelong learning as well as to inspire new practices and policies. A ceremony will take place during the opening reception of the LLL Week celebrating the 3 winners while the 10 best practices will be exhibited in the European Parliament.

Wishing you a fruitful LLLWeek2016!
Learning to live together

The Lifelong Learning Platform and the European Youth Forum wish to turn the spotlight on what brings them together and what makes education one of the most powerful tools we possess to build the inclusive societies that are the basis for a democratic Europe.

The Lifelong Learning Week 2016 will invite participants to discuss key challenges for educational policies, namely the impact of the economic and social crisis, migration flows, the emergence of populist movements or terrorist attacks and the growth of far right movements. The LLL Week will be organised around three main strands: Learning to live together, 21st Century Skills and Flexible learning pathways.

Learning to live together

A series of worrying phenomena in Europe in the recent past clearly indicate that Europe is facing serious challenges in managing diversity. Only an equitable society of engaged citizens can be resilient to such threats. The transformative power of education has a major role to play in building inclusive learning societies and in fostering civic and social participation, as it is a preferred vehicle for creating awareness, knowledge and understanding of (European) common values. How can education in all settings (formal, non-formal and informal) contribute to a better “living together” in Europe?

Flexible learning pathways

In more and more complex societies, individuals go through several transitions in their lives. The challenge is that not everyone has the capacity and means to build their learning pathway in a way that will support their professional and personal development. Opening educational institutions to non-formal and informal learning, for instance, is a way forward (e.g. validation mechanisms). It is about developing an offer that is adapted to the needs of learners while being accessible to those who would benefit the most from it.

21st Century Skills

What do people need to learn in order to become active citizens, to be socially included and have access to a good job? More and more emphasis is being put on the need for learners to acquire a set of “life skills” in order to be fulfilled citizens and workers. Social, civic and intercultural competences are particularly relevant for learning how to live together and further consolidating social cohesion. These competences are also strongly valued by employers on the labour market. Their acquisition and assessment, thanks to the reinforced use of active pedagogies, is a milestone in building inclusive and efficient learning systems.

In 2015, the Lifelong Learning Week addressed the issue of citizenship. In 2016, we wish to continue and further explore this fundamental concept, which carries the consequences of the strikes against democracy, social cohesion and solidarity in Europe and the world these last months. The European Youth Forum and the Lifelong Learning Platform have been cooperating since 2013 on various projects. In 2016, we decided to co-organise the Lifelong Learning Week. Both organisations understand that social cohesion, inclusive approaches and daily and genuine “living together” are indispensable in creating a society of peace and of free citizens, who are mindful of their role in society and of their future. At all levels, we perceive a natural convergence of goals and actions between education and youth organisations. Indeed, how would it be possible to speak and act in the field of education without including youth organisations? Young people are the citizens of today, and of tomorrow. Their views and positions are indispensable, as are those of other citizens, to change education and transform it into a tool for social, cultural and economic cohesion.

In this common endeavour, we do not wish to just have a common minimum understanding. We wish take into account the position and the words of every organisation and every participant present at the LLLWeek. Together, we want to explore the learning pathways which will become the roadmap of a 21st Century education that will allow us to live better together in an inclusive, tolerant and united Europe.
The Erasmus+ Civil Society Coalition is a group of more than 40 European Civil Society Networks active in the field of education, training, youth and sport. They represent key stakeholders in Europe active in the Erasmus+ Programme. This civil society alliance is led by the Lifelong Learning Platform and the European Youth Forum. The members of the Coalition aim to create ownership on EU policies and to voice the concerns and needs of millions of citizens to the EU. They play a crucial role as intermediaries and multipliers in informing and involving education, training and youth actors in EU cooperation and policy-making and in disseminating cooperation outputs. They can reach a critical mass and ensure a long-term impact.

Without a doubt, the Erasmus+ programme is perceived among stakeholders as one of the success stories of the European construction process. Indeed, it is a unique funding opportunity and a great step forward to modernise education, training, youth and sport policies, to share good practices and foster innovation at all levels. Nonetheless, the programme’s beneficiaries have raised a certain number of issues in the Erasmus+ Survey that could be rethought. The current Erasmus+ mid-term evaluation is therefore a great opportunity to improve the effectiveness of the programme’s actions and enhance its European added value. The Erasmus+ Coalition has prepared a number of recommendations in the prospect of the European Parliament’s upcoming Report on Implementation of Erasmus+ and the general Erasmus+ mid-term evaluation prepared by the European Commission. Building on the findings of the LLL-P 2016 Erasmus+ Survey and the 2015 report of the European Youth Forum on ERASMUS+, this event will be an excellent opportunity for a constructive exchange of views between stakeholders and decision-makers on ways to make the Erasmus+ even more successful, corresponding better to the needs of its beneficiaries.

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3 WINNERS

The Award was divided between 3 Awards and 10 nominations in the category “Inspiring Practices”.

The 3 winners of this first edition will be announced on 11 October 2016 at the LLL Awards Ceremony, highlight of the LLL Week Reception jointly organised with the European Youth Forum.

The Ceremony will feature high-level speakers, inspirational testimonies, and gustative delights!

The LLLAwards aim to celebrate outstanding initiatives in favour of pushing lifelong learning policy forward, building inclusive societies and making lifelong learning a reality for all.

The Award celebrates educational practices from all over Europe that can demonstrate the use of creative and inclusive learning methods with outstanding results and the potential to be replicated and/or of inspiring others.

10 INSPIRING PRACTICES

1. F.A.R.E Football People Action Weeks
2. Support Group Network
3. Fair Start Global
4. The Citizens Curriculum
5. Learning 2gether: SME Workers and Young Unemployed Skill-Sharing for Employability
6. Global Challenges
7. Le-MATH : Learning Mathematics through new communication factors
8. L3M – Enjoyable Life Long Learning for the Older Adult incorporating Montessori Principles
9. ISOLEARN: Innovation and social learning in HEI
10. Initiative Cookbook - Homemade Civic Engagement

JURY 2016

The LLL Awar Jury is composed of a Member of the European Parliament, two experts and two LLL Platform Board members.

Julie Ward
Member of the European Parliament
S&D, United Kingdom

Jean Gordon
Expert
International consultant in education policy and lifelong learning

Luís Costa
LLL Platform Steering Committee Member
EVE

Audrey Frith
Director of Eurodesk

Eszter Salamon
LLL Platform Steering Committee Member
EPA

The Award is not limited to a particular sector, since the Platform believes lifelong learning covers education and training across all ages and in all areas of life be it formal, non-formal or informal and shall enable citizens’ emancipation as a framework for personal development and well-being and citizens’ full participation in society in its civic, social and economic dimensions.

INFORMATION & CONTACT

For any information about the LLLAwards, visit our website: www.lllplatform.eu/to-do/lll-awards/
or contact the LLL Platform Secretariat:
Claudia McKenny Engström
claudia.engstrom@lllplatform.eu

CONTACT

EPA

Expert
International consultant in education policy and lifelong learning

LUIS COSTA
LLL Platform Steering Committee Member
EVE

Jean Gordon
Expert
International consultant in education policy and lifelong learning

ESZTER SALAMON
LLL Platform Steering Committee Member
EPA

Julie Ward
Member of the European Parliament
S&D, United Kingdom

**Rethinking Education: Towards a Global Common Good?**

“Rethinking education: Towards a global common good?” (UNESCO, 2015) was published at a particular historical juncture, namely in the framework of the definition of the Sustainable Development Goals for 2030. The content of the publication encourages public debate among education stakeholders, and different sectors, to rethink the purpose and structure of education in the face of present and future challenges and the targets set by SDG 4 and Education 2030. In this spirit, UNESCO, ICAE and EAEA (for the Europe region) wish to open a space for consultation and discussion with regional civil society organizations and networks, and other actors working in the field of youth and adult education. The consultation proposal is to reflect on the regional challenges of youth and adult education in the current world, and to share strategies, programs and practices that allow to ensure an inclusive, equitable and quality education; as well as lifelong and life-wide learning opportunities for all.

**Re-thinking Education: Towards a global common good? (2015).**

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**MIGRATION CRISIS: Turning commitment into reality**

Recent refugee and migrant arrivals in Europe have seen a lot of reaction, yet insufficient measures have been taken to tackle what could become a long-term issue. European societies are, and will continue to become, increasingly diverse. The most adequate response to these developments is thus undoubtedly a holistic inclusion strategy that gives priority to the socio-economic and political integration of refugees and migrants in the fabric of the host countries, as inequalities, segregation and social exclusion are on the rise across Europe. Education is a public good and a human right, as well as the strongest tool to build an inclusive and cohesive society. Indeed, investing in lifelong learning opportunities for all costs considerably less than having to deal with a wide range of problems linked to poverty, social exclusion, hate crimes and violent behaviours. The European Commission Action Plan on the Integration of Third Country Nationals contains some important points on how to improve national (educational) policies to support integration across the EU, but they remain a Member State competence. Is this important Communication just going to add onto a pile of initiatives never put fully into practice? These are some of the questions that will be raised in the LLLPlatform’s Debate in the European Parliament.

- How do we all together ensure that Member States put into force their legal obligations and responsibilities such as set in the UN Geneva Convention on the Status of Refugees?
- How do we ensure that integration and inclusion become a goal for our society as a whole?
- Are the short-lived arguments about migrants’ economic contribution to our societies really our strongest weapon? Should they be?

**LLLWeek Reception & LLLAwards 2016 Ceremony**

The LLLPlatform and the European Youth Forum invite you to participate in the Joint Reception they will be holding as partners in the LLLWeek2016. In 2016, the LLLPlatform launched the first edition of its LLLAwards, a prize aiming to reward creative and inclusive initiatives in lifelong learning. Awarded initiatives will be made public at 6.30 pm, as opening to an evening celebrating education across all ages.
In order to face the common challenges, we can only think of a holistic inclusion strategy that gives priority to the socioeconomic integration of refugees and migrants. Regional and local authorities have the urgent need to find new and sustainable approaches to integration. Thus, they are increasing their cooperation and ensuring synergies between educational, social and employment policies, with a strong support of refugees themselves and civil society.

The Erasmus+ project TALENTS is an example of cooperation and exchange of best practices. Moreover, it aims at up-scaling and implementing “pilot” projects in the participating regions. The partner institutions from Austria, Belgium, Germany, Italy, Norway and Sweden are responsible for the political and strategic steering of education and integration on the regional and local level; they are experts in the field of validation and guidance, they offer language classes, development of intercultural competences and vocational training and do research on integration issues.

To reach the targets, the event invites participants to join discussions on development and implementation of coherent integration policies; measures to speed up access to employment for asylum seekers and refugees; participation of asylum seekers, refugees and civil society organisations; effective recognition for asylum seekers and refugees; participation of asylum seekers, integration policies; measures to speed up access to employment for asylum seekers and refugees; development of intercultural competences and vocational training and do research on integration issues.

To achieve these competences, this event aims to assess the implementation of the Paris declaration so far, especially at national level, and provide examples of how non formal learning approaches in the field of intercultural citizenship and human rights education can contribute to the process.

**PARIS DECLARATION**

The Paris Declaration refers to the Declaration on Promoting citizenship and the common values of freedom, tolerance and non-discrimination through education, adopted in an informal meeting of EU Education Ministers on 17 March 2015 in Paris.

**CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION**

In the wake of the 2015 Paris Declaration, there was a clear call for rethinking of citizenship education in Europe in order to provide all young people with the tools and capacities to fight back violent extremism, xenophobic and racist political movements and anti-EU sentiment. During this last year and a half, many governments have implemented measures to achieve those goals, namely in formal education, but youth organisations, as providers of quality non-formal education, have also played a crucial but still unrecognized role in the implementation of the goals of the Declaration across Europe. Knowing the role of youth organisations as “laboratories of citizenship education”, the European Youth Forum, together with its member organisations, has been working on a publication aiming at showing the potential of non-formal education approach to citizenship education in providing young people with competences for active citizenship and democratic participation. Drawing from some existing research and experience, the publication also reflects on the situation of citizenship education in the formal education system and how youth organisations provide a unique practice of this subject that can inspire them. With the support of the European Parliament Youth intergroup, this event will present the main findings of this publication and supporting evidence of the quality of citizenship education provided by youth organisations. With the help of the European Youth Forum Pool of Trainers and non-formal education methodologies, it will aim to foster a debate around the different approaches to citizenship education and identify possible educational, social and employment policies, and synergies between the different stakeholders present at the event.
Validation of skills has become a part of the EU agenda since 2012 thanks to the Council's recommendation on the topic, and it is increasingly supported as a way of increasing chances on the labour market. This is also highlighted in the New Skills Agenda for Europe.

Several projects aiming at the validation of skills gained through non-formal and informal learning, within volunteering and/or mobility experiences, are currently being funded by the EU programmes. The event is going to present three of them and explore how they contribute to the implementation of the Skills Agenda.

**NEW SKILLS AGENDA FOR EUROPE**
The New Skills Agenda for Europe was adopted by the European Commission in June 2016. Based on 10 concrete measures, it aims to make sure that people develop the skills necessary for the jobs of today and tomorrow.

**ROBECO AND THE NEW SKILLS AGENDA**

**VALIDATION OF SKILLS GAINED THROUGH VOLUNTEERING: A CONTRIBUTION TO THE NEW EU SKILLS AGENDA**

**11.30-13.00**

**European Parliament Room ASP SE3**

Organised by European Alliance for Volunteering

Co-Chaired by MEP Michaela Soyová, EPP, Czech Republic
MEP Jana Žitnanská, ECR, Slovakia

**RECOGNISE STUDY ABROAD:**

**BROADENING ACCESS TO LEARNING MOBILITY**

Long-term mobility of secondary school students in Europe is still hindered in practice. As illustration, in the large majority of European countries, students have to repeat their school year once they come back. This not only hinders their life plans and learning opportunities of pupils, but it is also a missed opportunity for the internationalisation of schools. To overcome this major obstacle to learning mobility, in spite of its very positive effects in many dimensions of life and learning, civil society organisations have launched a campaign, #RecogniseStudyAbroad, raising awareness about the dysfunctions in learning mobility and the progress that can still be made to broaden as widely as possible the access to learning mobility. The event will be the opportunity to present the Campaign #RecogniseStudyAbroad, show testimonials, and invite policy-makers and educational stakeholders to reflect upon the importance of recognising and broadening the access to pupil learning mobility. The debate will end on the presentation of the European Charter on Quality in Learning Mobility in the youth field.

**13.00-15.00**

**European Parliament Room ASP A3E1**

Organised by EEE-YFU, EFIL and OBESSU

Speakers

MEP Victor Negreșcu (S&D, Romania);
Office national de garantie des séjours linguistiques et éducatifs, France; Davide Capecci, Research and Youth Policy Officer, Partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the field of youth (tbc);
Other voices from the campaign’s partners (EPA, OBESSU, KeyCoNet, EUROCLIO)

**INTERN CULTURAL DIALOGUE DAY QUIZ**

Those who attended the QUIZ in 2013 and/or 2014 know that you don't have to be a quiz fanatic or walking encyclopaedia to participate… and have a lot of fun! While meeting Brussels’ diverse international community. And you will also be making a huge contribution: all income of the night will go towards a fund to allow less privileged volunteers of new and young APS partner organisations (in south eastern Europe) to participate in the 2016 EFL Volunteer Summer Summit. Quiz teams can have a maximum of 4 people and the venue can accommodate a maximum of 15 teams, so quickly call your friends and colleagues to make up a team!

**16.00-18.00**

**European Parliament Room ASP A3E1**

Organised by World Organisation of the Scout Movement (WOSM) and the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGS)

Speakers

MEP Brando Benife, EPP, Czech Republic
Head of Unit EC, Youth Policy DG EAC, Angel Guisn, Don Bosco International
Matina Loizou, UK Scout Association
Hans Van Kerkhove, Scouts en Gidsen Vlaanderen
A representative from YMCA-
MEP J. Ward (via video contribution)

**SDG WATCH EUROPE LAUNCH EVENT**

Permanent Representation of Nordrhein-Westfalen / Brussels

SDG Watch Europe is a European, cross-sectional CSO alliance, currently comprising a broad range of NGOs from development, environment, education, social and human rights. It aims to act as watch dof for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (Sustainable Development Goals) at EU level.

**19.00**

**Mundo J Canteen Area**

Organised by the European Federation for Intercultural Learning (EFIL)

**INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE**

**LAUNCH EVENT**

Permanent Representation of Nordrhein-Westfalen / Brussels
**Practical Information**

**Brussels, Belgium**

**USEFUL ADDRESSES**

- **Mundo J**
  LLLPlatform & European Youth Forum Offices
  Rue de l’Industrie 10
  1000 Brussels

- **European Parliament**
  Place du Luxembourg
  1000 Brussels

- **Fondation Universitaire**
  Rue d’Egmont 11
  1000 Brussels

- **Delegation of the Basque Country to the EU**
  Rue des Deux Eglises, 27
  1000 Brussels

**GETTING HERE & THERE**

- **From BLX Airport to EU Area**
  Bus 12 (Airport Line) to Terminus
  5 EUR / Single ticket
  www.stib-mivb.be

- **From BLX Airport to City Centre**
  Train to Gare Centrale
  8 EUR / Single ticket
  www.belgianrail.be/en

- **Once you’re in Brussels**
  Metro Stops to EU Area: Trône, Arts-Loi, Maelbeek
  Bus Stops: Luxembourg, Trône, Science

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

**To access the Parliament**

Present yourself 30 minutes before the beginning of the event at the Info Point on the Parliament Square, with the ID registered for in the LLLWeek Registration.

**INFORMATION DESK**

An information desk will be held on the ground floor of Mundo J.

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**CALENDAR**

**MONDAY, 10.10**

11.15 / EU Parliament
Reforming Erasmus+: Budgetary Constraints, Civil Society Needs and Political Will
Organiser: Erasmus+ Coalition

**TUESDAY, 11.10**

11.30-13.00 / EU Parliament
Validation of volunteer skills: a contribution to the New Skills Agenda
Organiser: EAV

11.00-13.00 / Mundo J
Intercultural and citizenship education: Non formal education approaches to advance the Paris process
Organiser: EFIL, EEE-YFU, DARE Network

**WEDNESDAY, 12.10**

11.00-13.00 / Mundo J
Rethinking Education Workshop
Organiser: UNESCO, in partnership with ICAE and EAEA

18.30 / Fondation Universitaire
LLLWeek Joint Reception and LLLAwards2016 Ceremony
Organiser: LLLPlatform and YFJ

**THURSDAY, 13.10**

11.30-15.00 / EU Parliament
#RecogniseStudyAbroad: Broadening access to learning mobility
Organiser: EFIL, EEE-YFU, OBESSU

11.00-13.00 / Mundo J
Rethinking Education Workshop
Organiser: UNESCO, in partnership with ICAE and EAEA

16.00-18.00 / Fondation Universitaire
Migration crisis: Turning commitment into reality
Organiser: LLLPlatform

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ABOUT THE ORGANISERS

LIFELONG LEARNING PLATFORM

The Lifelong Learning Platform was born in 2005 as a response from civil society organisations to the definition and implementation of a European policy in the field of education and training in the so-called “Open Method of Coordination”.

The platform fosters a vision of lifelong learning that promotes equity, social cohesion and active citizenship. It believes that the objectives of education and training should not only be described in terms of employability or economic growth but also as a framework for personal development. It is essential to raise awareness on the fact that lifelong learning should include a large range of learning settings and create more complementarity and continuity between formal, non-formal and informal learning.

The Lifelong Learning Platform promotes a holistic vision of lifelong learning, from cradle to grave, that is not limited to formal education but integrates non-formal and informal learning. By bringing together actors from all sectors and levels of education and training, the platform contributes to an increased flexibility between systems. By encouraging an exchange of knowledge, it aims to build a citizen’s voice on education and training issues but also to propose concrete solutions to make lifelong learning a reality for all.

For 10 years now, the Lifelong Learning Platform has played a key role in structuring and increasing the input of civil society on the “Education and Training 2020” and “Europe 2020” strategies and their predecessors. Gathering 40 organisations, the Lifelong Learning Platform is today the most legitimate interlocutor of the EU institutions in the field of lifelong learning. It continuously defends the need to implement a dialogue across educational sectors and between stakeholders and public institutions at all levels, regional, national and European.

EUROPEAN YOUTH FORUM

The European Youth Forum (YFJ) is the platform of youth organisations in Europe. Representing 100 youth organisations, both National Youth Councils and International Non-Governmental Youth Organisations, we believe youth organisations are the tool through which we empower, encourage, involve, represent, reach out and support young people. The Youth Forum brings together tens of millions of young people from all over Europe, organised in order to represent their common interests.

The Youth Forum works to empower young people to participate actively in society to improve their own lives by representing and advocating their needs and interest and those of their organisations. In the current uncertain political and social context that affects young people, they can be powerful catalysts for positive change and contributors of innovative solutions to Europe’s problems.

On 18 April 2012, the LLLPlatform and the European Youth Forum, respectively represented by their president Gina Ebner and Peter Matjašič, signed a partnership agreement in the platform’s offices. This partnership implied that the two organisations will develop their cooperation by supporting each other through exchanging competencies and experiences, sharing their good practices and positions and regularly attend each other’s events and activities. The LLLPlatform and the YFJ had already set up together in 2010 an informal working group on the future programmes for education, training and youth.

In 2016, they launched the Erasmus+ Coalition, gathering more than 40 European Civil Society Networks active in the field of education, training, youth and sport. They represent key stakeholders in Europe active in the Erasmus+ Programme. This civil society alliance is led by the Lifelong Learning Platform and the European Youth Forum. The members of the Coalition aim to create ownership on EU policies and to voice the concerns and needs of millions of citizens to the EU. They play a crucial role as intermediaries and multipliers in informing and involving education, training and youth actors in EU cooperation and policy-making and in disseminating cooperation outputs. They can reach a critical mass and ensure a long-term impact.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

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www.youthforum.org