

TIPS FOR ONLINE YOUTH WORK

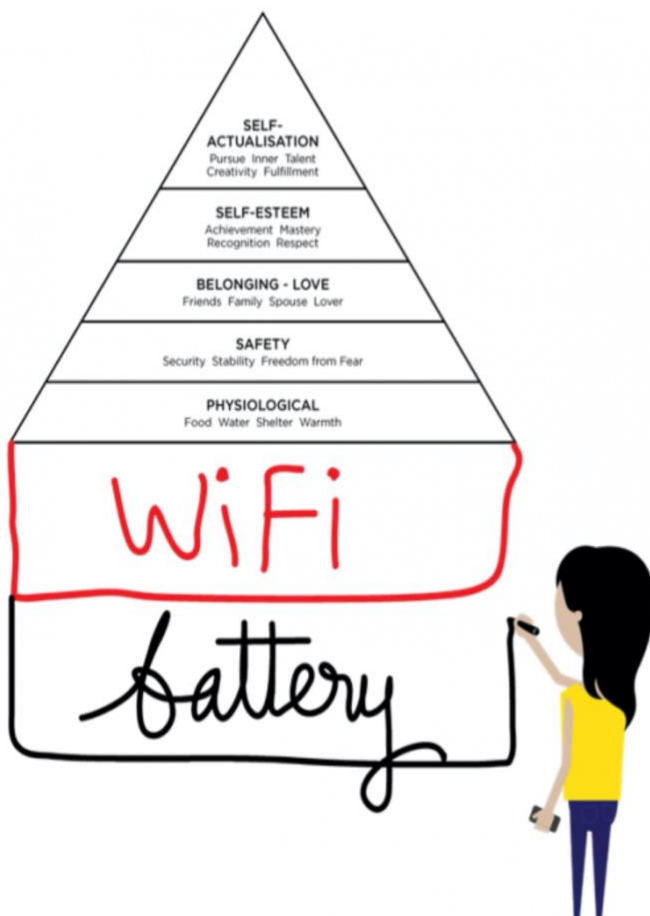
BACKGROUND

DIGITALIZATION AND YOUTH WORK

“IF YOUTH WORK FAILS TO EMBRACE THE USE OF TECHNOLOGY AND SOCIAL MEDIA THERE IS A RISK OF BECOMING OUTDATED AND IRRELEVANT TO YOUNG PEOPLE WHO USE YOUTH WORK SERVICES.”

(Source: Screen Agers International Research Project)

https://www.youth.ie/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Infographic_ScreenagersResearch_accessible.pdf



DEVELOPING DIGITAL YOUTH WORK

Set up under the European Union Work Plan for Youth 2016-2018, the expert group on 'Risks, opportunities and implications of digitalization for youth, youth work and youth policy' provides

1. a working definition of 'digital youth work';
2. policy recommendations on the development of digital youth work; and
3. training needs of youth workers relevant for digital youth work



Definition: Digital Youth Work

- Focuses on the digitalization and digital transformation of the youth work sector and youth work practice
- Includes a broad range of methods and approaches that can be employed in any youth work setting
- Has the same aims and is underpinned by the same ethics, values and principles as youth work in general
- Can happen in face-to-face situations as well as in online settings
- Means proactively using and/or addressing digital media and technology in youth work practice as a tool, an activity and/or as content

(Source: Policy recommendations, training needs and good practice examples for youth workers and decision-makers: expert group set up under the European Union Work Plan for Youth for 2016-2018)

<https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/fbc18822-07cb-11e8-b8f5-01aa75ed71a1>

EXAMPLES OF DIGITAL YOUTH WORK PRACTICE



(Source: European Guidelines for Digital Youth Work)

<https://www.digitalyouthwork.eu/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2019/09/european-guidelines-for-digital-youth-work-web.pdf>

22 TIPS FOR ONLINE YOUTH WORK

The current epidemic sweeping the world puts new challenges for the whole youth work sector as well. How can we reach young people in digital environments? What activities can we arrange for young people online when youth centres are closed? Here are some tips compiled by [Verke](#), the centre for expertise on Digital youth work in Finland. Therefore, they are originally tailored for the Finnish youth sector, so you might have to make adjustments that take into account your particular youth work goals and traditions, as well as any legislation guiding the field in your country.

1. *Tackle Discord, if you haven't already*
2. *See what young people are sharing on TikTok.*
3. *Offer chances to discuss issues on WhatsApp*
4. *Ask how young people are doing on Instagram stories*
5. *Host a gaming stream on Twitch*
6. *Inform young people of other available support services*
7. *Host a quiz on Instagram*
8. *Use simple games to engage young people*
9. *Discuss topics with young people on Instagram Live*
10. *Host an Instagram live show with another user*
11. *Watch something together with young people*
12. *Give out tips for passing the time at home*
13. *Have young people participate in writing a shared story*
14. *Host a group discussion on Instagram*
15. *Provide opportunities for anonymous discussion*
16. *Host an online jam session*
17. *Start a challenge on TikTok*
18. *Organise a drawing event online*
19. *Host a tournament in an online game*
20. *Make a game together with kids*
21. *Offer to play games with young people*
22. *Start a podcast*



The tips in detail:

English: <https://www.digitalyouthwork.eu/tips-for-online-youth-work-when-youth-centres-are-closed/>

German: <https://www.digitalyouthwork.eu/tipps-fur-online-jugendarbeit/>

(Source: The Digital Youth Work Project)

<https://www.digitalyouthwork.eu>

TIPS FOR BEST PRACTICE

1. Whole Organisational Approach
2. Maintain Professional Relationships and Boundaries
3. Make Informed Choices on Digital Platform/Tool Use
4. Explore Platform Settings
5. Are you Conducting Group Work?



(Source: Youth Work in an Online Setting during Covid-19; a guidance document for youth work in an online setting during Covid-19 by the National Youth Council of Ireland for youth workers and those working with young people)

https://www.youth.ie/documents/digital-youth-work/?utm_source=Stay+in+touch+with+NYCI&utm_campaign=3662e44ee2-Digital+Youth+Work+-+15-05-20&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_c5e3fd8386-3662e44ee2-390955196&mc_cid=3662e44ee2&mc_eid=48243a38f2

DIGITAL YOUTH WORK - GOOD PRACTICES

Good practice examples in Danish, Finish, German, Swedish, and English language for

- Gaming
- Maker & STEAM
- Media literacy
- Online counselling
- Online Safety
- Social Media
- Youth participation

<https://www.digitalyouthwork.eu/good-practices/>

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TOPIC

TIPS FOR ONLINE YOUTHWORK

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