

**PROMISE** is a collaborative research project exploring young people's role in shaping society, focussing specifically on young people 'in conflict' with authority.

The objective of PROMISE (Promoting Youth Involvement and Social Engagement) is to explore young people's role in social change. To do that, it focusses on young people involved in atypical activities, and often "in conflict" with the authorities and the existing regulations.

Youths with informal or irregular behaviours when shaping their way in society, many times trigger negative and constraining responses from authorities, in turn furthering marginalisation and stigmatisation. These mismatches reduce the participation possibilities of young people, and as a result, much of the creativity, innovation and energy within these groups is wasted. PROMISE assumes that among young persons "in conflict" exist relevant opportunities for positive social change, what makes their reality a prime focus of policy makers and practitioners.

Many youngsters are at the forefront of social, cultural and political change, often driven by their energy and creativity, but also by their frustration at the challenges they face. PROMISE will research young people's answers to the challenges they face, and it will look for paths to transform them into social improvements. With a better understanding of European youth's experiences, values and attitudes, PROMISE will detail some of the obstacles and opportunities for their richer social participation.

PROMISE is a major EU funded research project running from May 2016 to April 2019 involving twelve collaborating centers (in Estonia, Finland, Germany, Italy, Portugal, Slovakia, Spain, the Russian Federation, Croatia and the UK). This project is funded under the European Commission's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Programme, Grant Agreement no. 693221.

#### METHODOLOGY

Using mixed qualitative and ethnographic methods, PROMISE will explain in detail alternative ways for young people to innovate and participate in society. Besides, PROMISE will engage young people throughout all the stages of the research, with a variety of participatory tools such as photo elicitation and an intensive use of social networks, providing a space for them to set

the agenda, document their situations and articulate their needs. The project also gathers quantitative data to explore differences in youth attitudes and behaviour across Europe.

#### ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS:

- In March 2019, a one-day event will take place with the active participation of young people, and key actors and stakeholders involved in public policies and social practices affecting young people. It will include an exhibition with outputs from the photo elicitation techniques and other participative activities to exchange information and perspectives.
- The photo exhibition will be toured around cafes, galleries, museums, and youth centres.
- Collating and producing a video montage to present a cross-national picture of young people's experiences to be posted on the web and social media and sent directly to stakeholders.
- Final conference in Manchester, April 2019.
- The development of national and European networks to promote engagement. Networks of relevant practitioners, policy makers and young people.

#### OUTPUTS:

- 2 edited volumes (edited books or special journal issues) drawing together the national work to provide international comparisons.
- 1 book or at least 2 high quality peer-reviewed journal articles per national team.
- National policy briefs.
- Short guides for young people.
- Online communication and social media.