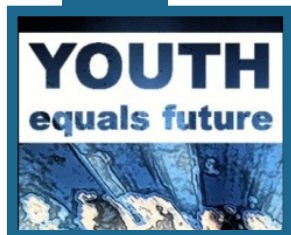


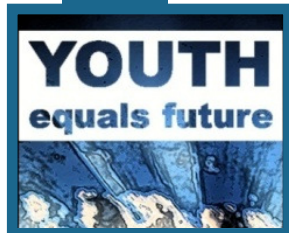
# EPIC YOUTH

## WHY YOUTH WORK?



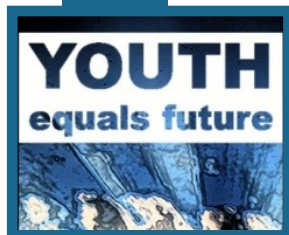
# EPIC Youth

- Founded in 2006
- First annual meeting in January 2007
- Support national youth groups
  - To get attention
  - Enhance cooperation
  - Exchange of experience
  - Fund raising
  - Inspiration and motivation



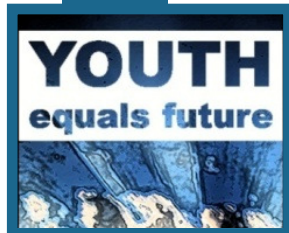
# The present board

- Mads Boe (President), Denmark
- Einar Jørstad, Norway
- Jenna Stålhammer, Finland
- Annika Thyselius, Sweden
- Elena Fadersbøl, Denmark
- Børge Nylund, Norway
- Minna Virtanen, Finland
- Helena Lif, Sweden



# Exchange of experience

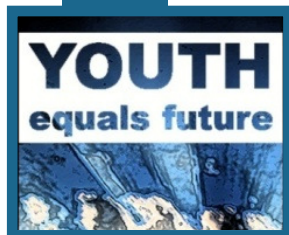
- EPIC Youth as a network
  - Get to know others involved with youth work
- Exchange experiences
  - Problems and successes
    - Projects, Voluntary workers, Activities, Political issues
- New ideas and motivation



# To be a support

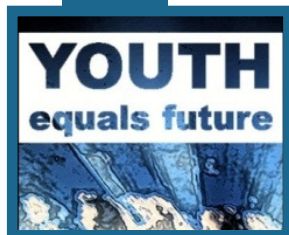


- Difference between the youth groups
  - Denmark, Norway, Finland, Sweden
- Different qualities
- The ability to push each other further



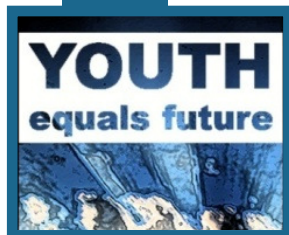
# What is youth work?

- In general
  - Work aimed at youth as a group
  - Carried out by...
- In this case
  - Youth involvement
    - Youth initiated work
    - For youths, by youths



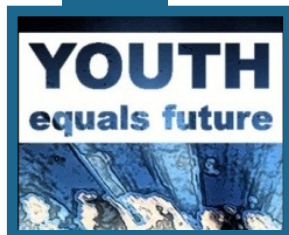
# Why youth initiated?

- Is this important?
- Can't we do the same without?
- Change during last couple of decades
- Youths should work for youths because of its advantages...



# Empowerment

- Opportunity to develop among other youths
- Break down barriers using youth activities...





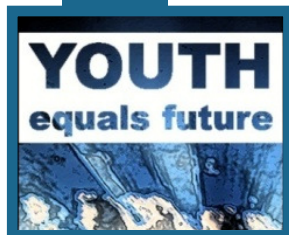
# Role models

- Big impressions
- Maybe even more important than empowerment
- Learning coping strategies from others...
- Source of motivation



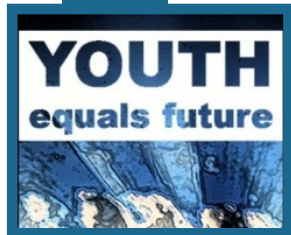
# Advantages for associations

- Reach out to a new group
- Involvement – new perspectives
- Pressure to do an extra effort
- Finance a lot more epilepsy work
- Recruiting
  - Training for organisation
  - Democracy training



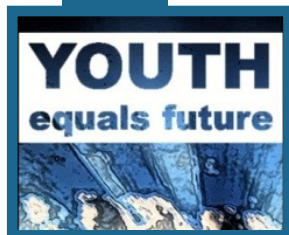
# What should be the goal?

- Depends on where you want to go..
  - Independent youth association
  - Half- independent
  - Dependent youth group
- The more independent more advantages?



# How to get started?

- You will need some youths...
- Let the youths plan the youth work
  - Elect a board?
  - Possible activities/responsibilities?
  - Define the goals to work towards
- Consult someone...
  - Other countries
  - Other diagnoses



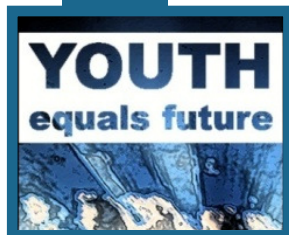
# How to get started?

- Who can contribute with what?
- What happens if someone does not follow up?
- Most important:
  - Let the youth have fun doing youth work!
  - Achieving something after hard work is rewarding!



*Employ me!*

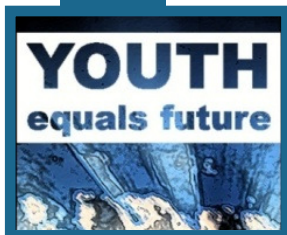
Norway



# Two year project

*Employ me!*

- Education, work and epilepsy
- Courses for youths
- Rights, possibilities, opportunities
- Motivate youths
  - How to cope with epilepsy?
  - Yes it may be hard, but youths with epilepsy can do as well as any other youths!



# Labour market project

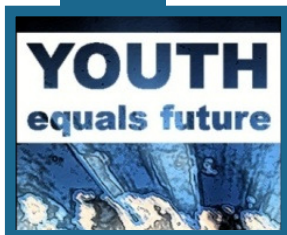
Sweden





# Labor market project

- Unemployment a huge problem
  - 25% (1998), 59% (1991)
- Youth group engaged in a project to solve some of these problems
- Work with the employers
  - The state is one of the largest...
- Epilepsy as invisible disability
- Several focus issues



# Summer camp for youth

Denmark



# What is a summercamp?

- Participants
- Leaders
- Aktivities



# Why a summercamp?

- Socialize young people with epilepsy
- Make new friends
- Learn about epilepsy
- Get rid of prejudices



# For youth by youth

- Young people know what young people need and want
- Away from home
- Better understanding

