

## Igor Stojilović: "In youth work every day it's something new"

### **Introduce yourself and your job.**

My name is Igor and I think that I'm the walking commercial of Centre for youth work, organization in which I'm employed now as a youth worker. Started almost 15 years ago, as a teenager in a small Serbian community as a beneficiary of youth work activities held in local youth club runned by Centre for youth work, I have been supported, taught, mentored, facilitated to develop personally and professionally moving trough the organization to become volunteer, coordinator of volunteers, youth club leader, associate, youth worker and many more. Now, after almost 15 years in NGO, I cant even imagine how my life would look like without the values, skills, knowledge, experience, that I got as a person, and that will be part of me no matter what I do professionally or no matter what I'm personally. Now, that is my job - to give this chance to other youth people :)

### **What makes your job exciting?**

Every day its something new. We are working in profession that is helpful for so many reasons, and its not we could shape the future - we are shaping the presence. I think our job is also exciting because we are also, as youth workers in constant process of progress, learning, adapting and developing together with young people - they are shaping us as well, and I'm always super excited to understand myself as a product of influence of so many young people.

### **What are your dreams as a youth worker?**

That youth work becomes recognized as a profession that is changing life.

### **Why did you choose youth work?**

Maybe its sounds a bit cliche, but it chose me. At the hardest moments of my life, youth work was there to be a support, to make me not feel as a stranger in my community, to make me feel I belong, I'm worth . There is a (romanced) story about the first activity I was participating ever (but maybe its to long to explain :))

### **What is your most memorable experience as a youth worker?**

When a young person told me: "A year ago I said thank you for helping me be who I'm. Now, I realized it not you who is helping me, its myself, and thank you for allowing me to see that".



Co-funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union



### **How has your job effected you and what have you learned?**

I'm a youth worker, not only in a professional but also personal level. Caring about people, community, yourself, learn not just to be tolerant, but also to understand. I learned how to lead, how to be modest, how to facilitate communications, I learned about culture of dialog, about burnout on my own skin, about small stories that make community great, about my stronger sides and weaknesses, and I learned when is a good time to let a new generation of young youth workers continue what you started.