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Inga Koitla: "Youth work has so many different facets"

Introduce yourself and your organisation (incl. the structure in which you operate in the youth field).

My name is Inga Koitla and I have been involved in youth work since 2015. I work as a youth leader at the Youth Centre of Anija Rural Municipality. Alavere and Kehra youth centres are sub-units of our youth centre. I am active in both youth centres. We have 2.5 youth workers and a manager for the two youth centres. In addition to my daily work at the youth centre, I am also involved in open youth centre projects. We have been very clever and received approvals for two smart youth work projects: Screenagers which prepares youtubers and Tehnoovus (techno-creativity), i.e. combining technology and creativity.

What makes your job exciting?

What makes my job exciting is that youth work has so many different facets – work at the youth centre, work outside the youth centre, international youth work, smart youth work, youth information work, camps, self-improving opportunities, etc. This work is never boring.

What are your dreams as a youth worker?

As a youth worker, I personally dream about launching some international projects. My dream regarding youth work in general is that people would finally understand how necessary this work is and how it is a link between different forms of work with young people (school, hobby schools, training, youth centres, local municipality youth work).

Why did you choose youth work?

I chose the profession of a youth worker completely by accident because there was a free position near my home. By now, I have been doing this job for almost five years and I feel that I have not gotten bored of it and novel and innovative things constantly happen in youth work.

How has youth work / being a youth worker influenced you? (What have you learned from it?)

Youth work and being a youth worker has influenced me very positively. I have gained a wealth of experience, I am open to offers, and I am not afraid of challenges, I have also gained many new contacts and acquaintances in Estonia and abroad. In addition, I feel that I can contribute to the development of young people.